THE ART OF ARCHERIE.

Shewing how it is most necessary in these times for this Kingdome, both in Peace and War, *and how it may be done without* charge to the Country, trouble to the People, or any hinderance to necessary Occasions.

ALSO,
Of the Discipline, the Postures, *and whatsoever else is necessarie* for the attayning to the Art.

G. Markham

LONDON,
Printed by *B. A.* and *T. F.* for BEN: FISHER, and are to be sold at his Shop, at the Signe of the *Talbot* without *Alder-Gate*. 1634.

ARTOF

ARCHERIE.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

TO

The Sacred Maiesty of our Dread Soueraigne

CHARLES,

By the Grace of God, King of Great *Britaine*, *France*, and *Ireland*; Defender of the Faith, &c.

SIR,

THIS *Proiect* which I offer to your Sacred Ma-

Maiesty, how euer (for mine owne Vnworthinesse and Insufficiency, or the almost last Remembrance of the weapon, which I striue to aduance) it may seeme vnworthy of your Gracious view or Consideration; yet I am confident, if you please to lay your sacred eyes vpon it, you will allow it: For first, it will be hono-

honourable to your Kingdomes, through the Multiplicitie of good *Souldiers*; Terrible to your oppoſers, when they heare of ſuch diſtiplin'd *Multitudes*, and not troubleſome to your *Subiects*; becauſe it neyther puts them to one penny of extraordinary *Expences*, takes from them one day of theyr neceſſary *Affaires*, nor

loades them with any trouble or Vexation, either of *Minde* or *Body*; Onely it tyes them to the exercise and performance of that duty, to which they are bound both by the Lawes of *God*, *Nature*, and the wholesome *Statutes* of this Kingdomes, as the Treatise (I hope) will witnesse, when your Maiestie (or any by

your Maieſtie appointed) ſhall reade it; In humble confidence whereof, I reſt

Your Maieſties,

poore Vaſſaile and Subiect,

GERVASE MARKHAM.

your Majesties approbation) shall tread it;
In humble confidence whereof, I rest

Your Majesties

most loyall and subiect,

CHARLES GARRHAM.

TO

The much honoured Gentleman, Mr. WILLIAM TRVMBALL, *Esquire.* Eldest Clarke to his Maiesties most Honourable Priuie Councell, and Muster-master-Generall of all *England.*

***

SIR,

ALL *Rivers and Rivellets, Fountaines and Waters whatsoever, come from the Sea, and returne to the Sea, the* [illegible] *to acknowledge the Happinesse of their Beginnings: the other,*

to restore the Rent & Tribute of their
Duties. So all subiects receiue happi-
nesse from their Soueraignes, and to
them they ought to restore any thing
that they can call happy within them;
Hence, I haue presumed in all Humili-
ty and obedience, to present to his Sa-
cred Maiestie, this little Treatise of
The Art of Archerie, and how
it may profitably be vsed in this King-
dome, to the Aduancement of the
Trayned Bands (to whose Glorie and
Good, your place especially calles you)
to the Propagation and increase of
young Souldiers, and to the suppor
and Re-edifying, of the now falling
and almost vtterly ruin'd Societies
Bowyers and Fletchers: who (
I am credibly informed, and part
know by diuers true obseruations) a
so shaken and decayed in their Estat
and Tradings, that without his M
iestie Assist, it is impossible for the

to ſubſiſt. Then (worthy Sir) be pleaſed to lay your vertuous Hand to this Building, and make your ſelfe Maſter of many Hearts, and many Prayers, which (vnder your Pardon) you may thus effect, by procuring to be inſerted into the Letters for Mu-ſters; *that the* Supplyes *may appeare with* Bowes *and* Arrowes, *and to bee exerciſed with the* Trayned Bands, *as more largely appeareth in the* Treatiſe; *This I dare no further vrge, but leave it to your owne Goodneſſe, which can better direct, then I can Imagine.*

Your Servant,

GERV: MARKHAM.

TO THE WORSHIPfull, the Masters, Wardens, and Assistants, and to all the *rest of the Worshipfull Companies* and Societies of *Bowyers* and *Fletchers* within the Honourable City of *London*, and elsewhere.

Gentlemen,

IT is not out of any Ambition to get a Name, out of any hope of Future profit, nor out of any Disposition or

t loue I haue to Nouelties, which hath ſtirr'd me vp to this labour; But onely a ſincere affection I beare to *Truth* and *Goodneſſe*, which in former times were, and I doubt not but will bee againe, and euer, the beſt Friends and Companions to the *Bow* and *Arrow*.

It is true, that in this Treatiſe, I haue (according to my weake Iudgment, and vnder the controlemẽt of better knowledges) ſhewed how the Bow and Arrow may againe profitably bee employed, and Reuiued, without offence or Scandall; It now remayneth in you (if his Maieſtie ſhall bee graciouſly pleaſed, to put it in Execution) to make good all my promiſes; And that is, by furniſhing the Subiect with good *Bowes*,

good

good *Arrowes*, and reasonable prices, because defects in these, will both disgrace the Worke, and giue offence to the people; yet I would not haue you mistake me, that vnder this word *Good*, I meane the best and principall *Bowes* and *Arrowes*, As though euery man should necessarily be armed with *Ewe* and *Horn-beame*; no, *Elme* and *Birtch*, are Tymbers sufficient for priuate practise, and if they bee well wrought, Artificially chosen, and reasonably sold; the Subiect shall find no fault, nor the Exercise hinderance.

This (when you are call'd vpon) you are to take into your considerations, which I know you can better doe, then I can instruct; therefore to it, and to the happy pro-

proceedings of these Beginnings, which may begin your Benefits, I leaue you and rest,

Your Well-wisher,

Gervase Markham.

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THE

THE ART OF ARCHERIE.

CHAP. I.

A Generall Encomium, or praiſe of Shooting, *both in Peace and Warre.*

SHooting is an Art neceſſary for the Knowledge of all ſorts of Men, vſefull both in Peace and Warre; It is an honeſt paſtime for the minde, and an wholeſome exer-

exerciſe for the Body; Not vilde for Great-men to vſe, nor coſtly for Poore-men to maintayne, not lurking in holes and corners, for ill men at their pleaſure to miſuſe it, but ſtill abiding in the open ſight and face of the world, for good men (if it bee any way faulty) by their wiſedome to correct it.

Now touching the Antiquity of it, *Claudian* ſaith; That Nature firſt gaue the example of *Shooting* by the *Porpentine*, which by ſhooting his Quils will hit any thing that fights with it, which Learned men afterwards imitated in finding out *Bow* and *Shafts*: *Plinie* referreth it to *Scythes*, the ſonne of *Iupiter*. Better and nobler Writers, as *Plato*, *Calimachus*, and *Galen*, bring Shooting from *Apollo*, when hee ſlew *Python*; yet long before thoſe dayes, wee reade expreſly in the Bible of

Shoo-

Shooting, and if wee ſhall beleeue *Lira*, *Lameeh* killed *Caine* with a Shaft, which long continuance doth not a little praiſe the Art, beſides, that it hath at all times and may ſtill bee vſed by all men, the examples of the Antients are proofes vnreſiſtable; *Cyaxares* King of the *Medes* and great Grandfather to *Cyrus*, kept a company of *Scythians* with him onely to teach his Sonne *Aſtiages* to ſhoote, and *Cyrus*, being a Child, as *Zenophon* ſheweth, was himſelfe taught the Art of Shooting; *Darius* was ſo exquiſite in this Art, that hee cauſed this Inſcription to be grauen on his Monument:

DARIVS *the King*
lyes buried heere;
That in Shooting and Riding
had no peere.

Domitian the Emperour was ſo cunning in Shooting, that he would ſhoote betwixt a mans fingers ſtanding a farre off and neuer hurt him. *Comodus* alſo had ſo ſure an hand, that there was nothing within his reach and ſhoote but hee could hit it in what place he liſted: *Themiſtius* the Phyloſopher commended *Theodoſius* the Emperour, for three things which hee vſed of a Child, which were *Shooting*, *Riding*, and *Feates of Armes*: And not onely Kings and Emperours haue beene brought vp in Shooting, but alſo the beſt Common-wealths haue made excellent Edicts to maintayne it. The *Perſians* (which vnder *Cyrus* conquered in a manner all the world) made a Law, that their Children from Fiue yeares old vnto Twenty, ſhould learne three onely things, that was; To

Ride,

Ride, to *Shoote*, and to *Speake Truth alwayes*; The *Romans* had a Law, that euery man ſhould vſe Shooting in the time of Peace, till hee was Forty yeares old, and that euery Houſe ſhould haue a Bow and forty Shafts ready for all occaſions; If I ſhould rehearſe the Statutes made in Parliament by the Kings of *England* for the aduancement of Shooting, I ſhould but tyre patience, let theſe therefore ſuffice already rehearſed; And how fit labour is for Youth, *Minos* among the *Grecians*, and *Licurgus* among the *Lacedemonians* doe ſhew, who neuer ordayned any thing for the bringing vp of Youth that was not joyned with labour; and that labour which is in Shooting, is of all other the beſt; both becauſe it increaſeth Strength, and moſt preſerueth Health, being not

vehement but moderate, not ouer-
laying any one part with weari-
nes, but exerciſing euery part with
equalneſſe, as the Arme and Breſt
with drawing, the other parts with
walking, being not ſo painefull for
the labour as delightfull for the
paſtime, which Exercíſe by the
Iudgement of the beſt Phyſitians
is moſt allowable. Alſo by Shoo-
ting, the mind is honeſtly imploy-
ed, where a man doth alwayes de-
ſire to doe beſt, (which is a word
of honeſty) and by the ſame way
that Vertue it ſelfe doth, coueting
to come nigheſt a moſt perfect end
or meane, ſtanding betweene two
extreames, eſchewing *Short*, or
Gone, or on eyther ſide *Wide*;
which cauſed *Ariſtotle* to ſay, that
Shooting and *Vertue*, were like
one another, and that Shooting of
all other Recreations was the moſt
honeſt,

honeſt, and gaue leaſt occaſion to haue Naughtineſſe joyned vnto it, which two things, doe approue, that (as Tutors or Overſeers) are fixed vnto it, and that is, *Day-light* and *Open-place* where euery man doth come, the keepers from all vnhoneſt Actions. If a man ſhoot foule at any time, it is not hid, it lurkes not in corners, but openly accuſeth and bewrayeth it ſelfe, which (as wiſe men ſay) is the next way to amendment.

Now as Shooting is thus excellent in it ſelfe, and moſt allowable by both Antient and Moderne Authority and example in the time of Peace; So it is much more illuſtrious, and by many degrees more profitable and with more vigour to bee acquired in the time of Warre — as thus, —

The vpper-hand in Warre, next to the goodneſſe of God (from whom all Victory commeth) ſtandeth chiefly in three things; The *Wiſdome of the Prince*, the *Slights and Policies of the Commanders*, and the *Strength and cheerefull forwardnes of the Soldiers*: The 2. firſt I will omit (they are Elements aboue mee) the laſt, which is the ſtrength of warre, it abideth in the Souldier, whoſe chiefe praiſe and vertue is *Obedience* to his Superiours, then to haue and handle his Weapon well; of which, the one muſt bee at the Captaines appointment, the other, lyeth in the Courage and exerciſe of the Souldier; yet of all Weapons, the beſt is that, where with leaſt danger to our ſelues, wee may hurt our Enemies moſt; And that is, (as I ſuppoſe) by Artillerie, which now adayes is taken for *Gunnes* and *Bowes*, which how much

much they doe in Warre, both daily experience doth teach, and *Peter Nannius* of *Louayne* doth very well ſet out in a Dialogue, wherein this is remarkable, that when hee hath ſhewed all the excellent commodities of both, and ſome diſcommodities of Gunnes, as infinite coſt, and charge, cumberſome carriage; And if they bee great, the vncertaine leuelling, the perill of them that ſtand by them, the eaſier avoiding by them that are farre of. And if they be little, the leſſe both feare and jeopardy is in them, beſides all contrary winds and weather which doth hinder them not a litle; yet of all, in *Shooting* hee cannot rehearſe any diſcommody; yea, ſo neceſſary hath Shooting been, and ſo highly ſet by, that to its laſting credit it is recorded, that when *Hector* and his *Troians*, would haue ſet fire on the *Greeke* ſhips, *Teucer* with his Bow made

made them recoile backe againe, And *Troy* it selfe could neuer be destroyed without the helpe of *Hercules* Shafts, which thing doth signifie, that though all the world were gathered into one Army, yet without Shooting they can neuer come to their purpose, and this may partly be collected out of the holy Scriptures, where it is recorded, that among the *Iewes*, nothing was so frequent or did so much good as Bowes; insomuch, that Iosh. 13: whē the *Iewes* had any great victory ouer the *Gentiles*, the first thing that the Captaines did, was to exhort the people to giue all the thankes to God for the conquest, and not to their Bowes wherewith they had slaine their enemies. God when he promiseth helpe to the *Iewes* vseth no kind of speaking so much as this; *That he will bend his*

Bow

Bow, and die his Shafts in the Gentiles blood; whereby it is manifeſt, that God will either make the *Iewes* to ſhoot ſtrong ſhootes to ouerthrow their enemies, or at leaſt, that Shooting is a mighty powerfull thing in warre, wherevnto the high power of God is likened; *David* in the *Pſalmes*, calleth Bowes, *The veſſels of Death, A Bitter thing, a mighty Power*, with like Attributes; yet one place more I muſt remember for the praiſe of Shooting; and that is, when *Saul* was ſlayne by the *Philiſtines* (beeing mighty Bow-men) and *Ionathan* his Sonne, who was ſo good an Archer, that he never ſhot ſhaft in vayne; the firſt Statute *David* made, after hee came to the Kingdome; was, that all *Iſrael ſhould learne to ſhoot*: by which wee ſee what great uſe and Proviſion, even from the beginning, was among

Pſal. 7. 63. 74.

2. Sam. 1. 18.

mong the *Iewes* for Shooting. *Seſoſtris* the moſt potent King that ever was in *Ægypt*, overcame a great part of the World, onely by *Archers*, and in token how he vanquiſhed all men, he ſet up in many places great Images to his owne likeneſſe, with a Bow in one hand, and a ſharpe headed-Arrow in the other. The Prince of *Samos*, *Policrates*, was Lord over the *Greeke* Seas, and withſtood the power of the *Perſians*, onely by the helpe of one thouſand Archers. The beſt part of *Alexanders* armie were Archers, as *Appian* and others record, and they ſo ſtrong, that ſundry times they overcame their Enemies before any other weapon could come in to ſecond them. But to let paſſe theſe foreine examples, I will conclude with this ſaying out of *Pliny*; *If any man would call*

to

to mind the Æthiopians, Ægyptians, Arabians, Indians, Scythians, Sarmathians and *Parthians, hee ſhall perceive halfe the World to live in ſubiection, overcome by the power and might of Shooting.* Againe, *Leo* writing concerning what Armes were beſt, ſayth thus; *Let all the youth of Rome be compelled to vſe ſhooting, eyther more or leſſe, and ever to carry their Bowe and Quiver about them, vntill they bee forty yeares old.* And in another place, he ſayth; *Let the Souldiers have their weapons well appointed, but above all other things regard moſt Shooting; eſpecially in the time of peace, for the neglect of it onely hath brought the whole Empire of Rome to Ruine.* And againe, he ſaith thus to his Generall; *Arme your Hoaſt as I have appointed you, but eſpecially with Bowes and Arrowes, for the power of it is infinite.* And againe

to

to the ſame Generall, thus; *Artillerie is eaſie to bee prepared, and in time of need a thing moſt profitable, therefore wee ſtraightly command you to make Proclamation to all men under our Dominions, which bee eyther in Warre or Peace, to all Cities, Boroughs and Townes, and finally to all manner of men, that every ſeverall perſon have Bowe and Shafts of his owne, and every houſe (beſides this,) to have a ſtanding, bearing Bow and 40. Arrowes for all needs, and that they exerciſe themſelues, in Holts, Hills, and Dales, Playnes and Woods, for all manner of chances which may happen in Warre.* Which Law of this good Emperour, if it were in force in *England*, thoſe which now haunt *Play-houſes*, *Ale-houſes* and *Tobacco-ſhops*, I would preſume, by little and little, bee brought to a better eſteeme of themſelves and a greater

ter loathing of thoſe ill places. Laſtly, to conclude with our owne Nation; what Battayle haue wee ever fought eyther at home or abroad and tryumphed, but the Bow (next unto God) hath carryed the honor, witneſſe the famous Battaile of *Creſsie* againſt *Philip* the *French* King, where (as our Adverſaries themſelves doe confeſſe) was ſlain all the *Nobility* of *France*, onely by the *Engliſh* Archers: like unto this, was the Battaile fought by the Blacke Prince beſide *Poyctiers*, where *Iohn* the *French* King, with his Sonne, and in a manner all the Peeres of *France* were taken, beſides 30000. which that day were ſlaine, and very few Engliſhmen. As this, ſo the Battayle of *Agincourt*, is remarkeable, where *Henry* the fifth, with 7000. fighting men, and many of them ſicke

and

and vnable, yet ſuch Archers, tha
(as the Chronicle doth report
moſt of them drew a yard, ſlew al
the Chevalrie of *France*, to the
number of 40000. and more, and
loſt not above 26. of the *Engliſh*.
The bloody Civill Warre betwixt
the two great houſes of *Yorke* and
Lancaſter, where Arrowes flew on
every ſide, will witneſſe the pow-
erfulneſſe of the Bow, and as theſe,
ſo a world of others, too tedious
to recite. So that in concluſion, it
cannot be denyed, but the Bowe
hath done more wonderfull ex-
ployts and brought home more
Tryumphs, then any other weapon
that ever was read of, eyther in
Greeke or *Latine* Story, then that
it ſhould now fall ſicke, languiſh,
nay dye, and be buried in perpetu-
all oblivion, *O quam te memorem.*

CHAP. II.

Chap. II.

That Shooting is moſt neceſſarie for this Kingdome both in Peace and Warre, and how it may profitably bee vſed, without charge to the Country, trouble to the People, or any hinderance to neceſſary occaſions.

WHatſoever I have formerly ſpoke in praiſe of the Bowe, which I know to bee moſt worthy, yet I would not have the curious to miſtake me, and thinke in it I derogate from other Weapons, and ſo call me a King *Harry* Captaine, or a man of an old Edition, out of date in theſe refined times, where nothing is excellent, but that which is leaſt excellent, *Folly* and *Selfe-*

opinion; No, I am farre from ſuch cenſuring, for I acknowledge the *Pike* and *Muſquet* to bee the elder Brethren in Warre, and the Weapons wherewith I have both commanded and beene commanded all my life in the Warres: neyther dare I carry a thought eyther to weaken their power, or decreaſe their number, my wiſh is, that his Majeſty had for every ten an hundred. But when I looke into the ſtate of the Kingdome, to which my place in ſeverall Countyes calles me, I finde there is a ſelect and choyſe company cull'd out in every Shire, which are called the Cautionary or trayned Band, and which are armed with *Pike* and *Muſquet*, yet with that difficulty and vnpreparedneſſe, that authority her ſelfe cannot deny, but if ſodaine and vnlookt for alarum

ſhould

hould rayſe them, few Countyes
vould boaſt of abſolute perfecti-
n, but allow them(as they ſhould
e) compleat in every thing be-
nging vnto them, yet they are but
handfull, and not to compare
ith the vnarmed, one in an hun-
red; If then, to theſe Trayned
ands, there were an equall
umber or a much greater of well
iſciplined Bowe-men, doubtleſſe
ey would bee found of great vſe,
d not onely gaine glory to the
ingdome, but feare and amaze-
ent to all thoſe which durſt to
tempt vs: And that this is, a
orke moſt neceſſary and moſt ea-
, without charge, trouble, or o-
er difficulty, thus I approve it.

Firſt, for the neceſſity, it is
owne to all thoſe which eyther
ow vs, have heard of vs, or have
t vs, that we are a potent, valiant,

and daring Nation: not truſtin
vnto walled Towns, Caſtles, Fort
or concealed Stratagems, but vn
to the God of Battailes, a goo
Cauſe, and well manag'd Armes
ſo that what Enemy ſoever wi
ſeeke vs, ſhall finde ns in the ope
field, where a Battaile muſt ever b
made the Arbitrator of our goo
or evill Fortune. If then, the chanc
of one day muſt decide our contr
verſie, what better Art can bee
ſed in that extremity, then the A
of Multiplication, or bringing
moſt Multitudes to fight witho
diſorder; for, according to the Pr
verbe, *Many hands make lig*
worke. and albe a few may pr
vayle through the vertue of Diſc
pline, yet more will do more goo
if Valour and Wiſedome bee n
wanting, as thus for example;
Battaile is to be fought, and v

Kin

ng brings into the Field 20000.
ned with Pyke and Muſquet, to
ing a greater number with thoſe
eapons is difficult or hurtfull, ey-
er through the want of Armes, or
e neceſſity of other places: If
en, there bee 10000. ſtrong and
ell exerciſed Bowe-men to joyne
to them, can any man be ſo ſot-
h as not to conceiue what terror
d amazement thoſe Showers of
rrowes will bring to the Enemy,
t this bee judg'd by them that
ve ſeene the affright in Battailes,
r mine owne part, I cannot but
nceive it a worke of great neceſ-
y, excellent vſe, and infinite pro-
able both to the King, and his
ingdomes.

Now touching the eaſie accom-
iſhment of this worke, without
arge or vexation, or ſo much as
grumbling to the common peo-

ple, it may thus (if his Majeſti
pleaſe) be effected.

There are (or at leaſt there ough
to be) in every City, Towne, Ham
let and Village, a certaine ſele
Company of the beſt and able
men both for perſon and eſtat
which ſhould amount to a doub
number, or more then thoſe whic
are called the Trayned men, as thu
If in a Towne there be one Traine
man, then there ſhould be two
three of theſe: if two Trayned m
then foure, five, or ſixe of theſe, a
cording to the ability and popul
rity of the place, and theſe bee c
led *Supplies*, becauſe from the
the Trained Bands are ſupplyed a
re-enforced vpon every alteratio
Change, death, old-age, or any
ther neceſſary avoydance; No
theſe Supplyes are bound to a
pearance at all Muſters, aswell as t

Tr

rayned Bands and doe ſo, but ha-
ing giuen in their names, they de-
art away without any exerciſe or
ilitary inſtruction, and ſo ſpend
ut the reſt of the day eyther in the
lehouſe or ſome other place
here they laugh at thoſe which
e taking paines and buſie to be
ſtructed; So that when they
ome to be called into the band
emſelues, their Ignorance is ſo
eat, that they hurt both them-
lues and others.

Now, if it would pleaſe his Ma-
ſtie, or thoſe to whom he hath
iſpenſed ſuch authoritie, to com-
and, that theſe *Supplies* ſhould
iue their attendance with Bowes,
rrowes & Palizadoes, or Staues,
ſuming the likenes of the Paliza-
oe & ſo to be exerciſed with the
rayned Bands which carrie Pike
Muſquet; This Benefit would a-

riſe from ſuch proceedings. Firſt, a Glory to the Band by augmentation of their numbers, an expertnes in the Souldier, by his acquaintince withall manner of weapons, and a dexteritie of Body, by the vſe and knowledge of euery Military motion; For, allow the Bow to be as deſpiſed a thing as either Envie or Ignorance would haue it, yet out of this diſcipline the Bowman ſhal learne theſe moſt neceſſary leſſons: Firſt, all manner of Marches & Countermarches, Turnings & returnings; Wheelings imbattailings, doublings, and deductings, diſtance of place, how to Charge, Retyre, and how to giue ſhowers or volleys vpon all occaſions, the poſture of the Bow and Arrow, which hath affinitie with the Muſquet, and the poſtures of the Palizadoe, which is a good conduct to the

Pike,

Pike, he ſhall learne the beatings of the Drum, all words of Command, the power of his ſuperior Officers, and indeed what not, that belongs to an ordinarie Souldier; So that when any of them ſhall be called into the trayned Band to handle other weapons, they will be found ſo skilfull and expert, that there can be no feare either of Confuſion or diſorder, and where his Maieſty hath one ſouldier now, he will then haue two or a greater Number.

Now if I ſhall be queſtioned touching the mixture of theſe ſeuerall weapons, the *Pike*, the *Muſquet*, and the *Bow*, or in what ſort they may be imbattayled without diſorder or hinderance of one weapon with another; I anſwer, that albe there are a world of more worthy Souldiers which can bet-

ter

ter demonſtrate theſe things then my ſelfe, yet this is mine Opinion, and thus I conceiue it may be done both eaſily and profitably. In the dayes of Queen *Elizabeth* of thrice happy and bleſſed memory, when the vſe of the *Muſquet* was newly brought from beyond the Seas into this Kingdome, and the vertue thereof found and approued; yet was the weapon ſo ſcarce to be had, workemen ſo ſlow, and new alterations ſo vnpleaſant, that the State was compelled to compound their Bands of three ſeuerall weapons, the *Pike*, *Muſquet*, and the *Harquebuſh*, or *Calliuer*, as I am able to ſhew by ſundry liſts, both of mine owne and others. But after the expence of ſome ſmall time, by the care of the *Lords Liuetenants*, and the diligence of their *Deputies*, the Bands were reduced into that eſtate wherein

wherein now they ſtand, which is, *Pike*, and *Muſquet* only, and the *Harquebuſh* caſt off. Now inſtead of the *Harquebuſh*, and as the *Harquebuſh*, ſo would I haue the Bow imployed, and as the Muſquet doth wing the Pike; So I would haue the Bow to wing the Muſquet, obſeruing to keepe the numbers ſo iuſt and conſtant, that one weapon might not intermixe with another, but as three diſtinct and ſeueral bodies, (howeuer joyned in one Battalia) to be ſeparated and diſpoſed at the pleaſure of the Commander; and becauſe the *Bow* is a more ready and quicker Weapon of diſcharge then the *Muſquet*, the Captaine may by doubling and redoubling, eyther Ranks or Fyles, make his ſhowers of arrowes greater or leſſe, according to the aduantage of ground, the ſtrength of his

his numbers, or the approach of the Enemie.

Many other things might be added to this little beginning, which were much to tedious to handle in this place; becauſe, I onely deſire but to open a little narrow way to a great deale of profit for the kingdome, which if it ſhall pleaſe Authority to accept and ſecond, both my ſelfe and many others, much more worthy then my ſelfe, will bee ready with our vttermoſt endeauours to make good this proiect; Beſides, the now almoſt halfe loſt Societies of *Bowyers* and *Fletchers*, will get a little warmth and, both praiſe their God, and pray for theyr King, from whom theſe good things iſſue. Not that the Countries or Souldiers ſhall bee forc'd to any new charge or coſt, by which extraordinary gaine may redound

vnto

vnto them, but that the wholsome Lawes of the Kingdome (which bindeth euery man to be maſter of a Bow and Arrowes) may be a little awakened. And ſo I returne againe to the Art of *Archerie*, and the true knowledge with vſe of the Bow and Arrow, and all things elſe depending vpon them.

Chap. III.

Of the chiefe point aymed at in Shooting, and how to attaine vnto it.

THe chiefe point or end whereunto euery man bendeth his ayme when hee learneth to Shoote, is to hit the marke whereat he ſhooteth, and to the compaſſing thereof, there is required two things; firſt, Shooting *ſtreight*, then keeping a *length*, and theſe

theſe are attained vnto, by knowing and hauing all things belonging to Shooting, & when they be knowne and had, then in the well handling of them; and of theſe, ſome belong to ſhooting ſtraight, ſome to keeping a length, and ſome to both, as ſhall be declared ſeuerally at large hereafter.

Now touching the things belonging to Shooting, you ſhall vnderſtand, that all things are outward, yet ſome be outward Inſtruments for euery ſeuerall Archer to bring with him, proper for his owne vſe, other things be generall to euery man, as the time and place ſerueth.

Thoſe which I call outward Inſtruments, are the *Bracer*, the *Shooting-gloue*, the *String*, *Bow*, and *Shaft*.

Thoſe which are generall to all men, are the *Weather*, & the *Marke*, yet

yet the Marke, is euer vnder the rule of the Weather.

Now the well handling of theſe and all other things, ſtandeth in the man himſelfe, for ſome handlings are proper to Inſtruments, ſome to the Weather, ſome to the Marke, and ſome reſt in the man himſelfe.

Touching the handlings which are proper to Inſtruments, they be *Standing*, *Nocking*, *Drawing*, *Holding*, and *Looſing*, from whence iſſueth all faire ſhooting, which neither belongeth to *Winde* nor *Weather*, nor yet to the *Marke*; for in a Raine and at no marke, a man may ſhoote a faire Shoot.

As concerning the handlings which are proper to the Weather, they are the knowledge of the Wind with him, or againſt him, a Side-wind, Full ſide-wind, Side-

wind

wind quarter with him, Side-wind quarter againſt him, &c.

Touching the handlings proper to the Marke, they are heedfully to reguard his Standing, to ſhoote Compaſſe, to draw euermore alike, to looſe euermore alike, to conſider the nature of the Pricke in Hils and Dales, in Strayte Playnes, and winding places, and alſo to eſpy his marke.

Laſtly, for the things remaynings with the man himſelfe, they are the avoiding of all affections and paſſions which are the making or marring of euery good Action. And theſe things thus ſpoken of and breifly diſcuſſed if they be well knowne and handled, doubtleſſe they ſhall bring a man to ſuch perfection in ſhooting that fewe or none can exceed him, but if hee miſſe in any one of them he can ne-

uer

er hit the marke, and the more he
niſſeth, the further off he is in
Shooting nigh the Marke. But as
n all other matters, ſo in this, the
irſt Step or Stayre to be good, is
o know a mans fault and then to
mend it, for to mantaine it is dou-
ble to doe it.

Thus I haue packed together in
generall manner a ſmall or ſhort
Analaſis of the Art of *Archerie*; I
will now vnlooſen them againe,
and taking as it were euery piece
into my hand againe, diſcourſe of
them particularly and at large, be-
ginning with the Inſtruments. And
firſt of the *Bracer*.

Chap. IV.

Of the Bracer and the vse.

THe *Bracer* giueth the leaſt ſcope to my diſcourſe, becauſe it is an Inſtrument of no potent validitie, yet ſuch an one as may not be omitted; therefore you ſhall vnderſtand, that the *Bracer* ſerueth for two purpoſes, the one to ſaue the arme from the ſtripe of the String, and his doublet from wearing; and the other, that the String glyding ſharply and quickly of the Bracer may make the ſharper ſhoote, for if the ſtring ſhould light vpon the bare ſleeue, the ſtrength of the ſhoote would ſtop and dye there; yet it is the beſt in my Indgement, to giue the

Bow

Bow ſo much Bent, that the ſtring need neuer come neare or touch the mans Arme, and ſo ſhould a man need no *Bracer*, as I know many good Archers which ſeldome or neuer vſe them, but it is not a Rule for generall Imitation; becauſe euery mans apparell is not of one faſhion, nor euery one that fulneſſe of Iudgement, that thoſe which are continually and dayly exerciſed in the ſame haue.

In a *Bracer*, a man muſt take heed of three things; Firſt, that it haue no Nayles in it, then that it haue no Buckles, and laſtly, that the laces wherewith it is faſtned be without Tags or Aglets; For the Nayles will ſheare the ſtring in ſunder before a man be aware, and ſo put his Bow into hazard, and the Buckles, Tags or Aglets, will (when a man leaſt ſuſpects it) raze and ſcratch

his Bow, a thing both vncomely to behold, and dangerous for the weapon.

These *Bracers* are made for the most part of Spanish-leather, the smooth-side outward, and they be the best, sometimes of Spanish-leather and the flesh side outward, and they are both good and tollerable, and others are made of hard, stiffe but smooth Bend-leather, and they be the worst and most dangerous, And thus much is spoken of the *Bracer*.

Cahp. V.

Of the Shooting-glove and the vse thereof.

A *Shooting-glove* is a necessary armour or defence for the hand, to preserue it from hurting or galling, so that a man

man may be able in his fingers to beare the ſharpneſſe of the String to the vttermoſt of his ſtrength, for when a man ſhooteth, the violence and might of his Shoot lyeth in the foremoſt finger, and the Ring-finger; for the middle finger (which is the longeſt) like a Coward ſtarts backe and beareth no weight of the String, in a manner at all; therefore, the two other fingers muſt haue thicker leather, and that muſt haue the thickeſt of all, whereon a man looſeth moſt, and for ſure looſing, the foremoſt finger is moſt apt, becauſe it holdeth beſt, and for that purpoſe, Nature hath yoaked it with the Thumbe. Leather, if it be next a mans skin will ſweare, wax hard and chafe; therefore, Scarlet for the ſoftneſſe, thickneſſe and wholeſomneſſe, is beſt to line the Gloue withall; but, if you finde

that it helpeth not, but ſtill the finger hurteth, it is good then to take a Searecloth made of fine Virgin waxe and Deere Suet, and putting it next your hand draw on your Gloue; If yet you feele your finger pinched, then forbeare Shooting, both becauſe it is not poſſible for you to ſhoote well, as alſo, the continuall hurting of your Fingers by ſlow degrees, will make the time long ere you can be able to ſhoote againe.

A new Gloue pluckes many Shoots, becauſe the String goeth not freely off, & therfore the fingers of the Gloue muſt be cut ſhort, and trimmed with ſome ſweete oyntment, that the String may glide ſmoothly away.

There be ſome, that with holding the nocke of their Shaft too hard, rub the skin off their fingers, which

which is an errour, yet there is for it two remedies, one to haue Goose-quils ſpinetted and ſewed againſt the Nocking, betwixt the lyning of the Gloue and the Leather, which both openeth the fingers and helps the Shoote. The other, is to haue a rowle of leather ſewed betwixt his fingers at the ſetting on of the finger-ſtals, which will ſo keepe his fingers aſunder, that by no meanes he ſhall hold the nocke ſo hard, as before he did.

This Shooting-gloue, ſhould alſo haue a purſe on the backe of the hand, wherein the Archer ſhall euer carrie a fine linnen cloth and waxe, two neceſſary things, for any man that vſeth ſhooting; Some men vſe Gloues or the like on the Bow hand, for feare of chafing; becauſe they hold ſo hard. But that errour happeneth (for the moſt part)

when a Bow is not round, but a little ſquare, therefore fine tempered waxe ſhall doe well in ſuch a caſe, to lay where a man holdeth his Bow; yet I doe not condemne the wearing of a fine thin cut fingard-gloue on the Bow hand. And thus much concerning the Shooting-gloue; which albe, they are but trifles in a generall opinion, yet to the young vnexperienced Scholler they are things of moment, and as well worthy his knowledge as thoſe of greater value.

CHAP: VI.

Chap. VI

Of the String and the vse.

THe *Bow-string* though it be but a little thing to the eye, and but a ſmall twine in the hand, yet it is a thing of high eſteeme and worthy of a mans beſt circumſpection, onely the infelicitie is, that in this Inſtrument a man is forc'd to put all his confidence in the honeſty of the String-maker, and ſurely, the String-maker ought more diligently to be looked vnto by appoynted officers, then eyther *Bowyer* or *Fletcher*; becauſe they may deceiue a ſimple man with more eaſe. An euill String breaketh many a good Bow, yea no other thing halfe ſo many; In warre if

if a ſtring breake, the man is loſt and is no man, for his weapon is gone; and though he haue two ſtrings put on at once, yet he ſhall haue ſmall leaſure and leſſe roome to bend his bow; and therefore, God ſend honeſt String-makers both for Peace and Warre.

Touching what a String ought to be made on, as whether of good hempe (according to our now moderne practiſe) or of fine Flaxe or Silke, I leaue it to the decyſſion of the String-maker, of whom we muſt buy them who are moſt conuerſant with the vertues of euery ſeuerall ſubſtance.

Euſtathius vpon this verſe in *Homer* ——

Twang quoth the Bow, and twang quoth the String, out quickly the Shaft flew ——

doth

doth tell, that in old time, they made theyr Bow-ſtrings of Bullockes Tharmes, or Guts, which they twyned together as they doe Ropes, or as they doe great Harp-ſtrings, or other like ſtrings for great Inſtruments, which occaſioned them to giue a great twang.

Bow-ſtrings alſo haue beene made of the haire of an Horſetaile, and were called by reaſon of the ſubſtance wherof they were made, *Hippias*, as appeareth in many good Authors; Great Strings and little Strings be for diuers purpoſes, the great ſtring is more ſure for the Bow, more ſtable to pricke withall, but ſlower for the caſt; the little ſtring is cleane contrary, not ſo ſure, & therfore to be taken heed of, leaſt with long tarying on it break your Bow, beeing more fit to ſhoot farre, then apt to prick neare; there-

therfore when you know the nature of both big and little, you may fit your Bow according to your occasions.

In the stringing of your Bow, though this theame belong rather to the handling then to the thing it selfe; yet because the thing and the handling of the thing, be so joyned together; I must needs sometimes couple the one with the other;

The stringing of the Bow.

First therefore, in the *Stringing* of your *Bow*, you must marke the fit length of your Bow; for if the string be too short, the bending will giue, and at the last slippe, and so put the Bow in hazard; if it be too long, the bending must needes be in the small of the String, which being twyned hard, must needs knap in sunder, which is the vtter destruction of many a good Bow,

more-

moreouer, you must look that your Bow be well Nocked, for feare the sharpnesse of the Horne shearе in sunder the String, which chanceth often, when in bending, the string hath but one wap to strengthen it withall; you must looke also, that your string bee streight and euen put on; otherwise, one end will writhe contrary to the other, and so indanger the Bow. When the string beginneth neuer so little to weare, trust it not, but away with it, for it is an euill saued peny that loseth a man a Crowne.

Thus you see, how many jeopardies hang ouer the poore Bow, by reason onely of the String, as when it is eyther too short, or too long, when the Nocke is naught, when the string hath but one wap, or when it tarrieth too long on the Bow; yet these, are not all the

reasons

reasons for the breaking of the Bow, for it is broken diuers other wayes, and by diuers other meanes, as shall be declared.

In stringing your Bow, you must haue respect to much Bend and little bend; for they be cleane contrary one to the other. The little Bend hath but one commodity, which is in shooting faster and farther, the reason being, because the String hath so farre a passage ere it part with the Shaft. The great Bend hath many commodities, for it maketh easier shooting, the Bow being halfe drawne before; It needeth no Bracer, for the string stoppeth before it come to the Arme, it will not so soone hit a mans Sleeue, or other parts of his Garments, it hurteth not the Feathers of the shaft as the low Bend doth, it also suffereth a man the better to

espy

espie his Marke; Therefore let your Bow haue a reasonable good Bend, as about a Shaftment and more at the least, for the reasons before rehearsed.

Lastly, it is not amisse, if in the mid-part of the String, just where you Nocke your Arrow, you warpe it about for the space of foure fingers, with fine Silke well waxed, for it will both be a good defence for the String to keepe it from wearing; and also fill the Nocke of the Arrow the better, and make it flye with more certainty. And thus much of the *Bow-string.*

CHAP. VII.

Chap. VII.

Of the Bow, the Diuerſities and the Vſes: what Wood is beſt, the Choyce, the Trimming, to keepe it in Goodneſſe, and how to Cure it from all miſchiefes.

TOuching the *Bow*, which is the chiefeſt Inſtrument in all this Art, diuers Countries at diuers times, haue vſed diuers Bowes and of diuers faſhions. *Horne-bowes* are vſed in ſome places at this day, and were much vſed in the dayes of *Homer*; for *Pandarus*, who was one of the beſt Shooters amongſt the *Troians*, had his Bow made of two *Goates-hornes* joyned together, the length whereof, ſaith *Homer*, was; Sixteen hand-bredths, not much differing from

Iliad. 4.

the

the length of our Bowes. The Scriptures make mention of *Brasse-bowes, Iron-bowes, & Steele-bowes*, all which were vsed of long time, and are yet at this day among the *Turks*; but yet they must needs be vnprofitable; for if Brasse, Iron, or Steele, haue their owne strength and vigor in them, they are far aboue a mans strength; If they be made meet for mans strength, their vigor is allay'd and their Strength nothing worth, to shoot any strong shoot withall. Psal. 17.

The *Ethiopians*, made their Bowes of the *Palme-tree*, wch seemed to be very strong, (but with vs out of experience) being 4. Cubits in length. Herod. in Pol.

The *Indians*, haue their *Bowes* made of *Reed*, wch are wondrous strong; & it is no maruel, they framed their Bow & shafts therof; for (as *Herodotus* reports) euery Reed was so big, that a man might make a Fisher boat thereof; These Bowes, sayth *Arian*, in *Alexanders* life, gaue so great a Herod. in Thalia. Ar. lib. 3.

ſtroake that no Armour or Shield, though it were neuer ſo ſtrong was able to withſtand it, the length of ſuch a Bow was euen with the length of him that vſed it.

The *Licians* vſed Bowes made of a certaine Tree called in Latine *Cornus*, touching the name in Engliſh, I can ſooner prooue that other men call it falſe, then I can tell the right name my ſelfe; This wood is as hard as a Horne and very fit for Shafts, as ſhal be declared hereafter.

Ovid ſheweth, that *Syrinx* a Nymph and one of the handmaids of *Diana*, had a Bow of this wood, whereby the Poet meaneth, that it was the moſt excellenteſt for this purpoſe; As for *Braxill*, *Elme*, *Wiſhe* and *Aſhe*, experience doth prove them to be but in the meane degree, and ſo to conclude of all

woods

woods whatsoeuer, the *Ewghe* is that whereof perfect Shooting would haue a Bow made; This wood as it hath long beene and is now general and common amongst vs, so was it in former times acquired and had in most price, especially amongst the *Romans*, as doth appeare in this halfe verse of *Virgil*:

Taxi torquentur in Arcus
Ewghe fit for Bow to be made on.

Now this Bow of *Ewghe*, ought to be made for perfect shooting at at the pricke, which Marke, because it is certaine and most certaine I will draw & ground all my Rules from that head onely, and the rather, because whosoeuer is excellent at it, cannot be ignorant at any other Marke.

A good Bow is knowne as good

counſaile is knowne, by the end, and profit we receiue by it; yet both the Bow and good counſaile, may be made better or worſe, by the well or ill handling of them as experience teacheth vs; And as a man, both muſt and will take counſaile of a wiſe and honeſt man, though he ſee not the end of it; So muſt an Archer of neceſſity, truſt an honeſt & good Bowyer for a Bow, before he know the proofe of it. And as a wiſe, man will ſtore vp counſaile before hand, to preuent future euils; ſo a good Archer, ſhould euer haue three or foure Bowes before-hand, leaſt ſodaine want might vndoe his pleaſure.

Now, that you may eſcape generall miſtaking in the election of your Bow, I will giue you ſome Rules and Notions, which if you forget not, ſhall preuent many miſtakings.

If

If you come into a Shop and finde a Bow that is ſmall, long, heavie, and ſtrong, lying ſtreight, not winding, not marr'd with Windſhake, Knot-gall, Wenne, Fret or pinch, then buy the Bow from my warrant, the beſt colour of a Bow that I finde, is when the Backe and the belly in working be much what after one manner, for ſuch oftentimes in wearing, proue like Virgin waxe or Gold, hauing a fine & long graine from one end of the Bow to the other, for a ſhort graine though it proue well ſometimes, yet they are for the moſt part very brittle.

Touching the making of the Bow I will not greatly meddle, leaſt I ſhould be found to intrude vpon another mans Occupation in which I haue no skill, and ſo like the Cobler goe beyond my *Latchet*; Onely I would deſire all Bowyers to ſea-

ſon theyr Staues well, to worke and ſinke them well, to giue them heats conuenient, and Tyllering plenty; For thereby, they ſhall both get themſelues a good name, (and a good name increaſeth profit) and alſo bring a ſingular commoditie to the whole Kingdome; If any man offend in this poynt, I am perſwaded they are onely thoſe young Iourneymen, which labor more to make many Bowes ſpeedily for gaine ſake, then diligently to make good Bowes for theyr credit ſake, cleane forgetting this Prouerbe,

Soone enough, if well enough.

wherewith euery honeſt Tradſman ſhould, as with a Rule, meaſure his worke, hee that is a Iourneyman & rideth vpō another mans horſe, if he ride an honeſt pace, no man will

will disallow him; But, if hee ride poſt or beyond diſcretion, both he that oweth the Horſe, and he that after ſhall buy the Horſe may peraduenture haue cauſe to curſe him; neither is this fault confined to any one place, but I feare too generally diſpeirſt in diuers parts of the Kingdome, to the great hurt of that poore remnant of Archers which yet flouriſh, and to the great hinderance of the Kings ſeruice, if euer the vertue of that Weapon ſhall be reuiued; For beliewe it as a maxime, that the Bow can neuer be made of too good wood, nor yet too well ſeaſoned or truly made with heatings and tyllerings, neither the Shaft of too good wood, or too thorowly wrought, with the beſt Pinion feathers that can be gotten; eſpecially, when a man therwith is to ſerue his Prince,

defend his Country, and saue himselfe from his Enemie.

But to returne againe to the true knowledge of a well Shooting Bow, you are to vnderstand, that euery Bow is made, either of a Bough, a Plant, or of the Boole of the tree. The Bough, commonly is very knottie and full of pinnes, weake, of small pithe, will soone follow the string, and seldome weareth to any faire colour; yet for Boyes and young beginners, it may serue well enough. The Plant, doth many times proue exceeding well, especially, if it be of a good and cleane growth, and for the pith of it, is quicke enough of cast; it will ply and bowe, farre before it breake, as all other young things doe. The Boole of the Tree is cleaneſt without Knots or Pins, hauing a fast and hard wood, by

reason

reaſon of his full growth, ſtrong and mighty of caſt, and is the beſt of all other for the Bow, if the Staues be euen clouen, and afterward well wrought, not ouerthwart the wood, but as the graine and ſtreight growing of the wood leadeth a man; or otherwiſe, by all reaſon it muſt ſoone breake, and that in many Shiuers. Theſe things are to be conſidered in the rough wood, and when the Bowſtaues be ouer-wrought and faſhioned; For, in dreſſing and picking it vp for a Bow, it is then too late to looke for it. But yet in theſe poynts (as I ſaid before) you muſt when all is done, relye vpon the goodneſſe of an honeſt *Bowyer* to put a good Bow into your hand; yet not forgetting your ſelfe, thoſe Characters which I haue already ſhewed you; neither muſt you ſticke, for a Groat or a

Shilling

Shilling more then another man would giue, if it be a good Bow; For a good Bow twice payd for, is better thē an ill Bow once broken. Thus a ſhooter muſt begin, not at the making of his Bow like a Bowyer, but a the buying of his Bow like an Archer, and when his Bow is bought and brought home, before he truſt too much vpon it, let him try and trimme it after this manner.

Firſt, take your Bow into the Field, ſhoote in it, ſinke it with dead heauy Shafts, looke where it commeth moſt and prouide for that place betimes, before it pinch and ſo fret, then when you haue thus ſhot in it, & perceiues there is good ſhooting wood in it, carry it then againe to a cunning workman that is truſty, & let him cut it ſhorter, and pick it & dreſſe it fitter then before,

before, let him make it come round compaſſe euery where and whipping at the ends, but with great diſcretion, leaſt it whip in ſunder, or elſe fret before you bee aware, let him alſo lay it ſtreight if it happen to caſt, or otherwiſe need require; and if the Bow be flat made gather it vp round, and ſo ſhall it both ſhoote faſter for farre Shooting, and alſo bee ſurer for neare Pricking.

Now albe, ſome leſſe curious and more thrifty, may account this ſecond trimming of the Bow, a pidling and needleſſe worke, and that after a thing is once perfect there needes no amendment, let them vnderſtand from mee, that it is no very good token in a Bow whereof nothing, when it is new and freſh, need to be cut away or amended; euen as *Cicero* ſayth of a

Young

Young-mans wit and ſtyle. For euery new thing muſt haue more then it needeth, or elſe it will not grow better and better, but decay and bee worſe and worſe. New Ale, if it runne not ouer the barrell when it is new tunned, will ſoone looſe both ſtrength and head; and that Bow, which at the firſt buying without any more proofe or trimming, is fit and eaſie to ſhoote in, ſhall neyther bee profitable to laſt long, nor yet pleaſant to ſhoote well. And therefore, as a young Horſe, full of high courage and mettall, with artfull handling, is brought both to a comely pace and cunning manage; So a new Bow, freſh and quicke of caſt, by ſinking and cutting, is brought to a ſtedfaſt Shooting. And an eaſie and gentle Bow when it is new, is not much vnlike a ſoft ſpirited boy

when

when hee is young, yet as of an vnruly boy, with right handling, often commeth a well ordered man; so of an vnfit & Staffish Bow, with good trimming, must needs follow alwayes a stedfast and true shooting Bow; and such a perfect Bow, as will neuer fayle or decay. And indeed such a Bow euery man ought to looke for, that will attayne to the end and perfection of perfect Shooting.

Now, touching the sauing and preseruing of this good Bow, when you are once possest of it and haue brought it to that perfection, of which I formerly spake, you shall then prepare a cloath, eyther of fine Harden or Woollen, well waxed, wherewith euery day you must rub & chafe your Bow till it shine and glitter withall, which action shall cause it both to carry an excellent

cellent colour and complexion, and alſo bring ouer it (as it were) a cruſt, which will make all the outſide ſo ſlippery and hard, that neyther wet nor weather ſhall bee able to enter or hurt it, neyther yet any Fret or pinch be able to byte vpon it; inſomuch, that you ſhall doe it more then extraordinary wrong before you can breake it. This labour muſt be done oftentimes, but eſpecially when you come from Shooting; you muſt haue a great care when you ſhoote, of the heads of your Arrowes, of wearing Daggers, Knines, Poynt-tags or Aglets, leaſt by any miſchance they happen to raze or ſcratch your Bow, a thing (as I ſayd before) both vnſeemely to looke on, and dangerous for Frets. Alſo, take heed of myſtie and dankiſh dayes, for they are hurtfull to the Bow, and more

dange-

dangerous then rayne; for in ſuch weather, you muſt alwayes bee rubbing the Bow, or forbeare to ſhoote.

When your Bow is thus neatly trimmed and ordered, you may then put it vp into your *Bow-caſe*, which Bow-caſe ſeeing it is a defence or ſauegard for the Bow, I will ſpeake a little thereof; Firſt, your *Bow-caſe* when you ride abroad, muſt by no meanes bee too wide for your Bowes, for then one will beate againſt another and doe miſchiefe, neyther muſt it be too ſtrait, ſo that you ſhall bee forc'd to cram them in, for that would crowd them and lay them to one ſide, which would make them to winde and warpe; but it muſt bee of a fit proportion, eaſily filling and no more. A *Bow-caſe* of Leather is not the beſt, for they are for *Of the Bow-caſe.*

the

the moſt part moyſt, & hurt a Bow; therefore our beſt Archers, will haue for euery Bow a ſeuerall caſe, made either of fine Canuaſe, or woollen-cloth, but woollen cloth is the beſt, for it not onely keepeth them in ſunder without hurt, but alſo preſerueth a Bow in its full ſtrength, that it will neuer giue for any weather; when your Bowes are thus caſed vp ſeuerally, you may then put them vp into your leather caſe without danger.

At home in your owne houſe, wood caſes made of dry wainſcot, are very good for your Bowes to ſtand in, prouided alwayes, your Bow ſtand not too neare a ſtone-wall, for that will make him moiſt and weake, nor yet too neare the fire, for that will make it ſhort and brittle.

Thus, I haue ſhewed you the ge-

nerall

generall preseruations of the Bow, I will now descend to those things which are to be auoyded for feare of breaking the Bow, and they be foure in number, *viz.* The String, the Shaft, by drawing too farre, and by Frets.

A Bow is broken by the String, (as I haue partly shewed you before) when it is either too short, too long, not perfectly put on, when it hath but one wappe, when it is put on crooked, when it is shorne by a sharpe nocke, or when it is suffered to tarry too long on, any of these make the string fayle and the Bow break, especially in the midst, the reason being, because the ends haue nothing to stoppe them but whip so farre backe, that the Belly must needs rise violently vp and split in pieces, as you may very easily perceiue, when at any time you

will bend a Bow backward; A Bow therfore that followeth the String is leaſt hurt with breaking of the String.

Secondly, a Bow is broken by the Shaft, eyther when it is too ſhort, ſo that you ſet it in your Bow or when the Nocke breakes, for the littleneſſe, or when the String ſlips without the Nocke through the wideneſſe, then you pull it to your eare, and let it goe, which muſt needs breake the Shaft at the leaſt, and puts both String, Bow, and all in hazard, becauſe the ſtrength of the Bow hath nothing in it to ſtop the violence of it; This kinde of breaking is moſt dangerous for the ſtanders by, for in ſuch a caſe, you ſhall ſee ſometimes the end of a Bow flie more then a ſcore from a man, and as I haue noted it, is euer the vpper end of the Bow.

Thirdly,

Thirdly, the Bow is broken by drawing too farre, two ſeuerall wayes, either when you take a longer Shaft then your owne, or elſe when you ſhift your hand too low or too high for Shooting, and miſſe the true midſt of the Bow; and this motion is that, which pulleth the backe of the Bow in ſunder and maketh it flie in many pieces; ſo then you are to obſerue, when a Bow is broken, hauing the belly riſſen vp either both wayes or but one, then the String brake it, when it is broken but in two pieces, and that in a manner euen or eſpecially in the vpper end, then the Nocke of the Shaft brake it, and when the backe is pulled in many peices, then ouer-drawing brake it. Theſe tokens are alwayes moſt certaine, or very ſeldome doe miſſe.

The 4th, and laſt thing, that breaketh

keth a Bow, are Frets or Gaules, wch prepare and make ready a Bow for breaking by any of the three wayes formerly ſpoken off; and theſe Frets, are as well in the Arrow as the Bow, and they are much like a canker creeping and increaſing in thoſe places where they abide, which is euer the weakeſt and moſt indigent: And to cure this, your Bow muſt be picked & trimmed by a cunning workman, who will foreſee that it may come round in compaſſe euery where; For, of Frets you muſt beware. If your Bow haue a knot in the backe, leaſt the places which be next vnto it, be not ſtrong enough to beare with the knot, or elſe the ſtrong knot will fret the weake places next vnto it. Frets at firſt, are but little pinches, which aſſoone as you perceiue, picke the places about the pinch to make

make them ſomewhat weaker, and as well comming as where it pinched; and ſo the pinch will dye and neuer increaſe further or come to be a fret: Againe, Bowes moſt commonly Fret vnder the hand, not ſo much (as ſome ſuppoſe) for the moyſtnes of the hand, as for the heat of the hand, for heat (as *Ariſtotle* ſaith) is apt to looſe and not to knit faſt, and the looſer the weaker, and the weaker more apt to Fret.

A Bow is neuer wel made, which hath not plenty of wood in the hand, for if the ends of the Bow be ſtaffiſh, or a mans hand any thing hot, the belly muſt needs ſoone Fret.

Now, for the cure of theſe Frets, I haue not heard of any to any great purpoſe, more then to make the Fretted place as ſtrong or ſtronger then any other, touching

the filling of the Fret vp with the ſmall Shiuers of a quill and Glew, (which ſome hold good) yet both by reaſon & mine opinion it muſt needs be ſtarke naught, for put caſe the Fret doe ceaſe then, yet the cauſe which made it fret before (which is onely weakneſſe) is not taken away, and therefore conſequently the place muſt needs fret againe. As for cutting out of Frets, together with all manner of piecing of Bowes, I vtterly diſlike them, as things not fit for a good Archer, for pierced Bowes, are like olde houſes which are more chargeable to repaire, then cõmodious to dwell in; and againe, to Swaddle a Bow much with bands, how euer neceſſity may make it vſe full, yet it ſeldome doth any good, except it be to keepe downe a Spell in the Backe, otherwiſe

bands

bands eyther neede not when the Bow is any thing worth, or elſe Boote not when it is ſpoyled. And though I know many poore Archers will vſe pieced and banded Bowes, becauſe they are not able to get better, yet I am ſure if they conſider it well, they ſhall finde it leſſe chargeable and more pleaſure, to beſtow a Crowne on a new Bow then to giue tweluepence for piecing of an old, for better is coſt vpon ſomewhat worth, then expence vpon that which is naught worth. And this I write the rather, becauſe I intreat onely of the perfection of Shooting.

Againe, there is another thing which will ſoone occaſion a Bow to be broken, by one of the wayes before named, and that is ſhooting in the winter ſeaſon when there is any great Froſt; for Froſts are euer,

whereſoever there is any wateriſh humor, as is in all kinde of wood, eyther more or leſſe, and 'tis true, that all things frozen and Icie, will rather breake then bend; yet if any man muſt needs ſhoote at ſuch a time, let him take his Bow and bring it to the fire, and thereby a little rub and chafe it with a waxed cloth, which will quickly bring it to that perfection that he may ſafely ſhoote without danger: This rubbing with waxe (as I ſaid before) is a great ſuccour againſt all wet and moyſtneſſe, and as you thus rub your Bow at the fire; ſo likewiſe in the field and going betwixt your Markes, either with your hand or elſe with a cloath, keepe your Bow in ſuch a temper, as the froſt may not annoy it.

And thus much concerning the Bow, how firſt to know what

wood

wood is beſt, then how to chuſe a Bow, after how to trim it, then how to keepe it in goodneſſe; and laſtly, how to ſaue it from all harm and miſchiefe. And although many, both can and may ſay more in this Subiect then my ſelfe, yet what I haue ſaid is true, and I hope ſufficient for any reaſonable knowledge.

Chap. VIII.
Of the Shaft and the vſes.

WHat Shafts or Arrowes were made of in former times, Authors doe not ſo plentifully ſhew, as of Bowes; yet *Herodatus* doth tell vs, that in the Riuer *Nilus* there was a Beaſt called a *Water* horſe, of whoſe Skin after it was dryed, the *Ægyptians* made Shafts and Darts. *Herodot. Euterp.*

The

The tree called *Cornus*, was so common to make Shafts on, that in many good latine Authors, *Cornus* is taken for a Shaft, as in *Seneca* and this place of *Virgill*.

Sene: Hipo.

Volat Itala Cornus.

Æneid: 9.

Yet of all things that euer I marked in any old Authors, eyther Greeke or Latine, for shafts to be made on, I finde not any thing so common as Reeds; *Herodotus* in describing the mighty hoast of *Xerxes*, shewes that those great countries vsed Shafts made of Reeds, as the *Ethiopians*, the *Lycians* (whose Shafts had no feathers, at which I much maruaile) and the *Indians*. The *Indian* Shafts were very long, as a yard and an halfe (according to *Apian*) or at the least a full yard, as affirmeth *Quintus Curtius*, which made them giue the greater blow, yet that great length made them

Apian, li. 8

them more vnhandſome, and leſſe profitable for them that uſed them. In *Creet* and *Italy*, they made their Shafts of Reede alſo, and as they, ſo many other Countries beſide.

The beſt Reeds for Shafts grew in *Italie*, eſpecially in *Rhemus*, a flood in *Italie*. But becauſe ſuch Shafts, are neither eaſie for our Engliſh Nation to get, or if got, ſcarce profitable for vſe, I will leaue them vnhandled, and onely ſpeake of thoſe Shafts which our *Engliſh* Nation do moſt approue of at this day. And therefore you ſhall vnderſtand, that euery Shaft doth conſiſt of three diſtinct parts, as the *Steele*, the *Feather*, and the *Head*, which make a compleate Arrow; and becauſe they be each of them (how euer ſleight in ſhallow Imagination) yet of great validity and worthy our beſt diſcourſe, I will handle

handle them seuerally and a part. And first, of the *Steele*.

Chap. IX.

Of the Steele of the Arrow, the excellence and vse.

THe *Steele* or Body of the Arrow or Shaft, is, and may bee made of diuers Woods, as namely, Fifteene in number, as followeth:

Brazill, *Turkie-wood*, *Fusticke*, *Sugar-cheſt*, *Hard-beame*, *Birch*, *Aſhe*, *Oake*, *Seruis-tree*, *Hulder*, *Black-thorne*, *Beeche*, *Elder*, *Aſpe*, *Sallow*.

Theſe Woods, as they are moſt commonly vſed, ſo they are moſt

fit

fit to be vſed, yet ſome are more excellent then others, as you ſhall heare in their proper place, and in this inſtrument as in your Bow, you muſt repoſe your confidence in the honeſt Fletcher. And although I cannot teach you to make a Bow or an Arrow, becauſe it is the Art of the Artificers; yet, I will ſhew you thoſe Rules and Characters, which ſhall make you able to judge and diſcerne the goodneſſe and badneſſe of a Shaft, which is as much, as a good Archer can require.

Firſt then, the *Steele* of an Arrow, muſt be well ſeaſoned for feare of caſting, and it muſt be wrought as the graine goeth or elſe it will neuer flye cleane or true; for as cloth cut ouerthwart and againſt the wooll, euer maketh an imperfect garment; So a knotty Steele may paſſe

passe in a bigge Shaft, but in a little one it is intollerable, both because it wil neuer flye farre, & also because it is euer in danger of breaking; It cannot flye farre, because the strength of the shot is hindered and stopped at the knot, euen as a Stone cast into a smooth water will make the water mooue and make many circles; yet if there be any deepe or whirling plat in the water, the motion will cease, and the circles vanish soosoone as they approach it, so is it, with a knottie Shaft that cannot flye when the ayre takes it; for euery thing as it is plaine & straight of its owne nature, is fittest for farre mooving. Therefore, a *Steele* that is hard to stand in a Bow, without knot and streight (I meane not artificially streight, as the Fletcher doth make it, but naturally streight as it groweth) is absolutely the best to

make

make a Shaft on, eyther to goe cleane, fly farre, or to ſtand ſurely in any weather.

Now how bigge, how ſmall, how heauie, how long, how ſhort a ſhaft ſhould be particularly for euery man (becauſe I am bound to diſcourſe of the generall Nature of this Nature of this Art, and not the hidden adiuncts) it cannot be diſcouered, no more then Rethoricians can appoint any one kinde of words, Sentences, Figures and Tropes, for euery matter; but euen as the man and the Subiect doe require, obſeruing ſtill that the fitteſt be vſed. Therefore, as concerning theſe contraries in Shafts, euery man muſt auoyd them, and draw euery extremity to his meane or indifferent eſtate, which is the beſt in all things; yet if any man happen to offend in any exceſſe, it is better

to

to offend in want and ſcantneſſe, then in too much or ouerflowing; and it is better to haue a Shaft a little too ſhort, then any thing too long; ſomewhat too light, then ouer lumpiſh; a little too ſmall, then a great deale too big; which thing, is not onely true in Shooting, but in all things elſe, wch a man vndertaketh, eſpecially in eating & talking.

The offence of theſe contraryes cómeth moſt, when a man is careleſſe and reſpecteth not of what kinde of wood his Arrow is made; for ſome wood belongs to the exceeding part, ſome to the ſcant part, and ſome to the meane. As *Brazill*, *Turkie-wood*, *Fuſticke*, *Sugar-cheſt*, and the like; make dead, heauie, lumpiſh and cobling Shafts; the *Hudder*, *Black-thorne*, the *Seruis-tree*, *Beech*, *Elder*, *Aſpe*, and *Sallow*, either for their ouer-weakeneſſe or lightnes, make

make hollow, ſtarting, ſcudding, gadding ſhafts. But *Birch*, *Hard-beame*, ſome *Oake*, and ſome *Aſhe*, being both ſtrong enough to ſtand in a Bow, and alſo light enough to flye farre, are beſt for a meane degree, which is to bee ſought out in every thing: And although I know ſome men ſhoot ſo ſtrong, that the heauyeſt wood is light enough for them; and other ſome ſo weake, that the looſe and lighteſt Wood will hardly ſerue them: yet generally for the moſt part of men, the meane woods are the beſt; therefore to conclude, that wood is alwaies beſt for a man, which is moſt correſpondent to his ſtrength. And thus, no wood of his owne nature, is eyther too light, or too heauie, but according to the ſtrength of the Archer which doth vſe it; and that Shaft which this yeare was for

a man too light and ſcudding, for the ſelfe-ſame man the next yeare may be too heauy and hobling: Therefore cannot I expreſſe otherwiſe, then generally what is the beſt wood for an Arrow, but let euery one when hee knoweth his owne ſtrength, and the nature of euery ſeuerall wood, prouide and fit himſelfe thereafter; Yet as concerning Sheaf-Arrowes for the Warres (as I ſuppoſe) it were better to make them of good *Aſhe*, as they were in former times, and not of *Aſpe*, as they be now, for of all the woods that euer I prooued, *Aſhe* being big is the ſwifteſt, and giueth the faireſt blow, by reaſon of its heauineſſe; both which qualities the *Aſpe* wanteth; what the benefit of Armour is, euery man can judge by experience, therefore that which pierceth it moſt, is moſt worthy; then *Aſhe* be-

being both swifter and heauyer, it must be the deeper wounder, and so fittest for the Sheafe; And thus much, of the choyce of seuerall Woods.

Now, as no Wood can bee absolutely meet for all māner of shafts, no more can one fashion of the *Steele* be fit for euery Archer; for those that be little brested, and big towards the head, called for their likenesse Capon-fashion; Rush-growne, and of some merry fellowes Bob-tayles, are fittest for them which shoot vnder-hand, because they shoot with a soft loose, and straines not a shaft much in the Breast, where the weight of the Bow lyeth, as you may perceiue by the wearing of euery Shaft; againe, the big-breasted Shaft is fit for him that shooteth right before him, as also, the Breast being weake

cannot possibly withstand a strong pithie kinde of Shooting. Thus the vnderhand must haue a small breast to goe cleere away out of the Bow, and the fore-hand must haue a big breast to beare the great might of the Bow.

Euery Shaft must be made round & not flat, without Gall or woome, because roundnesse (whether you take example frō Heauen or Earth) is the fittest shape or forme both for fast mooning, and also for soone piercing of any thing, and therefore ARISTOTLE sayth, that Nature hath made the drops of Raine round, because it shall the sooner enter through the Ayre.

The nocke of the Shaft is diuersly made; for some be great and full, some handsome and little, some wide, some narrow, some deepe, some shallow, some round, some

long, ſome with one Nocke, and ſome with a double Nocke, whereof euery one hath his ſeuerall property; as thus: The great and full Nocke may be well felt, and doth divers waies ſave a ſhaft from breaking; the handſome little Nocke will goe cleane from the hand; the wide Nocke is naught both for breaking the Shaft, and alſo for ſuddaine ſlipping out of the ſtring, when the narrow Nocke avoideth both theſe injuries; The deepe and long Nocke is good in the Warres for ſure keeping of the String, the Shallow and round Nocke is the beſt of all other for our purpoſe in pricking, both for cleane deliuerance of a ſhoot, and fine ſending away of the Arrow; and the double Nocke is for a double ſuretie of the Shaft. And this I thinke is ſufficient touching the *Steele* of the

Arrow onely in Generall.

Now for the piecing of an Arrow with *Brazill*, *Holley*, or other heauye Wood, it is to make the end compasse heauie with the Feathers in flying, for the stedfaster shooting; for if the end were plumb'd heauie with Leade, and the Wood next it light, the head-end would euer bee downeward, and neuer flye streight. Now in piecing, you must conceiue that two points are euer enough for one shaft, least the moystnesse of the Earth enter too much into the piecing and so loosen the glew; therefore many points are more pleasing to the eye, then profitable for vse; Some vse to piece their shafts in the Nocke with *Brasill* or *Holley*, to counterpoyse with the Head, & I haue seene some for the same purpose, boare an hole a little beneath

the

the Nocke, and put leade into it; yet for mine owne part, I allow not any of those wayes, because the nature of a Feather in flying (if a man mark it wel) is able to beare vp a wōderfull weight; therefore I imagine this manner of piecing at the nocke was drawne from this President; when a good Archer had broken a good shaft with which hee was much enamoured, both in loue to the Feathers, and out of a fancie not to loose what he did formerly affect, hee hath caused it thus to bee pieced, which others perceiuing, (without any examination of the cause, but pleas'd with the gaudinesse) haue presently imitated, and not onely cut one, but all in their Quiuer; A thing, in my judgement much more costly then necessary; therefore let no man make himselfe anothers Ape without argument, without discretion.

Chap. X.

Of the Feather, the Nature, excellence and vſe.

THere is not any thing in all the Art of Archerie more ſeriouſly to be lookt into then the Feather of the Shaft; becauſe firſt a queſtion may be asked, whether any other thing beſide a Feather be fit for a ſhaft or no; then if a feather onely be fit, whether a Gooſe Feather onely or no; If a Gooſe Feather be beſt, then whether there be any difference as concerning the Feather of an old Gooſe or a young, a Gander or a Gooſe, a Fenny Gooſe or an vpland Gooſe: Againe, wch is the beſt Feather in any Gooſe the right wing or the left, the pinion Feather or any other Feather; a white, a blacke, or a gray Feather; Thirdly, in ſetting on the Feather whether

whether it is pared or drawn with a thicke Rib or with a thinne, (the Ribbe is the hard quill which diuideth the Feathers) whether a long Feather bee better then a ſhort, whether to be ſet on neare the Nocke or farre from the Nocke, whether to be ſet on ſtreight or ſomewhat bowing, and whether one or two Feathers muſt runne on the Bow; laſtly, in Couling or Shering, whether it muſt be done high or low, whether ſomewhat Swine-backed (I muſt vſe Archers words) or Saddle-backed, whether roundor ſquare ſhorne. And whether a Shaft at any time ought to be plucked, and how to be plucked; Of theſe things in their order.

Firſt therefore, whether any thing elſe may be vſed but a Feather, both *Plinie* in Latine, and *Iulius Pollux* in Greeke doe proue, that

Feathers

Feathers alwayes haue beene vſed; and but onely the *Lycians* of whom I reade in *Herodotus*, did vſe Shafts without Feathers; vnderſtand then, that onely a Feather is fit for a Shaft, and that for two reaſons: Firſt, becauſe it is leath-weake to giue place to the Bow, then becauſe it is of that nature that it will ſtart vp after the Bow, which plate, wood or horne, cannot do, becauſe they will not giue place; and againe Cloth, paper or parchment, cannot ſerue, becauſe they alſo will not riſe vp after the Bow; therefore the Feather onely is meet, for it will doe both; Now if you pleaſe to behold the Feathers of all manner of Byrds, you ſhall ſee ſome ſo low, weake and ſhort, ſome ſo courſe, ſtoore and hard, and the rib ſo brittle, thinne and narrow, that it can neyther be drawne, pared, nor well

well ſet on: So that, except it be a Swan feather for a dead ſhaft (as I know ſome good Archers haue vſed) or a Ducks for a Flight, which laſteth but one ſhoote, there is no Feather but onely of a Gooſe, that hath all mãner of cõmodities in it; & for the Peacocks Feather, which ſome men doe vſe at a ſhort Butt, it ſeldom or neuer keeps vp the ſhaft, eyther right or leuell, by reaſon that it is ſo rough and heauie; inſomuch, that many which haue taken them vp for their gayneſſe, haue layd them downe againe for theyr profit; So that I conclude, the Gooſe of all Feathers is the beſt for a compleat Archer, and he that will goe beyond it, let him be *Hercules* Scholler and not mine, who feathered his Arrowes with the wings of an Eagle, a Fowle that flyes ſo high, and builds ſo farre

off

off, that I had rather content my ſelfe with the gentle Gooſe, then ſearch for the others Feathers. Eſpecially, becauſe the Gooſe bringeth euen to a mans doore ſo many excellent commodities: for the Gooſe is mans comfort both in warre and peace, ſleeping and waking, what praiſe ſoeuer can be giuen to ſhooting, the Gooſe may challenge the beſt part: how well doth ſhee make a man fare at his Table, how eaſily doth ſhe make a man lye in his Bed, & how braue-ly doth her quils make vs write, & record euery occurrent: I doe not think that the *Romans* giue ſo much honour to the Gooſe for ſauing the Capitoll, when they ſet her golden Statue thereon, and appointed the Cenſors to allow out of the common Treaſurie yearely Stipends for the maintainance of thoſe Creatures,

tures, they did it not (I say) so much for that one good act, as for a world of others, which we dayly and almost hourely receiue from them; insomuch, that if I were bound to declaime in the praise of any Beast liuing, I would choose the Goose: But leauing this digression: Now how a Feather must bee had, and what Feather is best; it followeth now, whether of a young Goose, or an old; the old Goose Feather is stiffe and strong, good for a winde, and fittest for a dead Shaft; The young Goose Feather is weake and fine, and are best for a swift shaft, and it must be caulled at the first shearing somewhat high; for in shooting, it will settle very much; The same things (although not so much) are to be considered both in Goose and Gander; A Fenny Goose, euen as her flesh is blacker,

ker, ſtoorer and vnwholſomner, ſo are her Feathers by the ſame reaſon courſer, ſtoorer and worſe for that purpoſe; whence it comes, that I haue heard many skilfull Fletchers ſay, that the ſecond Feather in ſome place, is better then the Pinion in other; Betwixt the wings is little difference, but that you muſt haue diuers Shafts of one flight, feathered with diuers wings for diuers winds; for if the Winde and the feather goe both one way, the Shaft will be carryed too much. The Pinion Feathers, as they haue the firſt place in the Wing, ſo they haue the firſt place in Feathering, this feather you may know before it be pared, by a blight which is in it: and againe, when it is cloſ'd by the thinneſſe aboue, and the thickeneſſe at the ground, and alſo by the ſtiffeneſſe and fineneſſe,

which

which will carry a Shaft better, faſter, and further then any other Feather.

Touching the colour of the Feather, it is the leaſt of many other things to be regarded, yet is it worthy ſome notice; becauſe for a good white you haue ſometimes an ill gray, yet furely it ſtandeth with good reaſon, euer to haue the Cocke feather blacke or gray; as it were to giue a man warning to Nocke right. The Cocke Feather is that which ſtandeth aboue in right Nocking, which if you doe not obſerue, the other Feathers muſt needs runne on the Bow, and ſo ſpoyle the ſhoote.

Now concerning the ſetting on of the Feather, you are principally to regard, that your Feather be not drawne for haſtineſſe, but pared with diligence and made ſtreight.

The

The Fletcher is sayd to draw a feather; when he hath but one swap at it with his knife, And he is said to pare it, when he taketh leisure and heede to make euery part of the Ribbe apt to stand streight, and euen vpon the Steele. This thing if a man doth not take heede of, he may chance to haue cause to say of his Fletcher, as we say of good meat ill dresst; the Feathers are praise-worthy, but the Fletcher too blame.

The Rib in a stiffe feather may be drawne thinner, for so it will stand cleaner, on the shaft, but in a weake feather you must leaue a thicker Rib, for if the Rib wch is the foundation ground whereon Nature hath set euery cleft of the feather be taken away too neare the feather, It must needs follow, that the feather shall fall and drop downe, euen as an hearbe doth wch hath his Root too

neare

neare taken away with the Spade.

The length and ſhortneſſe of the feather ſerueth for diuers purpoſes and diuers Shafts, as a long feather for a long, heauy and big Shaft, the ſhort Feather for the contrary; againe the ſhort may ſtand farther, the long nearer the Nocke, your Feather muſt ſtand almoſt ſtreight on, yet after that ſort that it may turne round in flying; Now here I conſider the wonderfull nature of Shooting, which ſtanderh altogether by that faſhion which is moſt apt for quicke moouing, which is onely Roundneſſe; for the Bow muſt be gathered round in drawing, it muſt come a Round compaſſe, the String muſt be round, the ſteele round, the beſt nocke round, the Feather ſhorne ſomewhat round, the Shaft in flying muſt turne round, and if it flie farre it fly-

eth a round compaſſe, for either aboue or beneath a Round compaſſe hindereth the flying; Moreouer, both the Fletcher in the making your Shaft, and you in Nocking your Shaft, muſt take heed that two Feathers run equally on the Bow, for if one Feather runne alone on the Bow, it will quickly be worne & not able to match with the other Feathers, beſides at the looſe (if the Shaft be light) it will ſtart, if it bee heauie it will hobble.

To coule, ſheare or cut the Feathers of a ſhaft high or low, it muſt be done according as the Shaft is light or heauie, great or little, long or ſhort: The Swine-backed faſhion maketh the Shaft dead, for it gathereth more Ayre then the Saddle-backed doth, therefore the Saddle-backe is ſurer for danger of weather, and fitter for ſmooth flying;

ing. Againe, to ſheare a Shaft round, as they were wont in former times to doe, or after the Tryangle-faſhion which is much vſed now; in theſe times, both are good: For Roundneſſe is apt for flying of its owne nature, and all manner of Tryangles, (the ſharpe point going before) is alſo apt for quicke entring; and therefore ſayth CICERO, That *Cranes* taught by Nature, doe in flying alwayes obſerve a Tryangle faſhion, becauſe it is ſo apt to pierce and goe through the Ayre. *Cic. de Nat. Deor*

Laſtly, plucking of Feathers is naught, for there is no ſurety in it, therefore let euery Archer haue ſuch Shafts, that hee may both know them and truſt them vpon euery change of weather; yet if they muſt needs be plucked, pull them as little as can be, for ſo ſhall

they be leſſe conſtant; And thus I haue ſhut vp in a ſtraight Roome, what can be ſayd of the beſt Feather, feathering and faſhioning of a perfect Shaft, I will now proceed to the Head.

CHAP. XI.

Of the Arrow-head, the Inuention and ſeuerall vſes.

NECESSITIE, the Inuenter of all goodneſſe (as the beſt Authors affirme) amongſt other things, inuented the Arrow-head; firſt, to ſaue the end from breaking, then made it ſharpe, that it might ſtick the better, after made it of ſtrong matter, that it might continue longer, and laſt of all, experience, and the wiſedome of men

men hath brought it to ſuch perfection, that there is not any thing more profitable in all the Art of Archerie, either to wound a mans enemie in the warre, or pleaſure himſelfe and his friend, by hitting the marke at home, as is a right good Arrow-head, for where the Shaft wanteth an head, it is both vſeleſſe and without eſteeme.

Seeing then, the Head is of this neceſſity, it is needfull that we apply our beſt powers in attaining them; Heads for the warres of long time, haue beene made not onely of diuers matters, but alſo of diuers faſhions. The *Troians* had heads of Iron, as this verſe ſpoken of *Pandarus* ſheweth.

Vp to the pappes, his ſtring did be pull,
his Shaft to the Iron —

The *Grecians* had heads of Brasse, as *Homer* saith, *Vlisses* shafts were headed when he slew *Antinous* and the other wooers of *Penelope*, and in another place of *Homer*, it is playne, that when *Pandarus* wounded *Menelaus* with his shaft, that the head was not glewed on, but tyed to the steele with a string, which is also affirmed by the commentaries in Greecke, whence I finde that Archers in those times carried theyr Shafts without heads till they had occasion to vse them, and then set them on; which *Homer* againe secondeth in the xxj^th^, Booke of his *Odisses*, where he tels how *Penelope* brought *Vlisses* Bow amongst her Suters; that he which could bend and draw it might be her husband, there (saith the Poet) attended on her a maid with a bag full of heads both of Iron and Brasse. The *Scythians*

Odiss. 21

Iliad. 4

thians; also vsed Brasse heads; the *Indians* had heads of Iron, the *Æthiopians* made heads of hard, sharpe stones, as *Herodotus* and *Pollux* affirme. The *Germanes* (as *Cornelius Tacitus* writes) had their Shafts headed with Bone, and many countries, both of old time & now, vse heads of horne; but to conclude with the truth it selfe, Iron and Steele are of all other the most excellentest matter on which to make Arrow-heads. *Iulius Pollux* varieth from vs in the appellation of these things, for he calleth the Feathers the head, & this head that we speake of the point; but the reconcilement is so easie, wee need not argue it. *Pol.* 1. 10.

The fashions of heads are as diuers as the matters whereon they haue beene made. The Ancients (saith *Pollux*) vsed two sorts of heads, the one he calleth [illegible], describing

deſcribing it thus, that it had two points or Barbes looking backward to the Steele, & the Feathers which is the ſame, which we call heere in *England* a broad Arrow-head, the other he calleth γλαυκὸς hauing, two points ſtretched forward, which we call heere a forked head; Both theſe kind of heads were vſed in *Homers* dayes, for ſpeaking how *Teucer* vſed forked heads, he ſaith thus to *Agamemnon*.

Iliad. 8. *Eight good ſhafts haue I ſhot ſince I came, each one with a forked head* ——

Pandarus and *Vliſſes* vſed broad Arrow-heads, *Hercules* vſed forked heads, yet ſuch as had three points or forkes. The *Parthians* in that great Battaile where they ſlew rich *Craſſus*, and his ſonne, vſed broad

Plutar. in Craſſus.

Arrow

Arrow-heads, which ſtucke ſo ſure that the *Romans* could not pull them out. The Emperour *Comodus* vſed forked heads, whoſe faſhion *Herodotus* doth deſcribe moſt liuely; ſaying, that they were like the ſhape of a new Moone, wherewith he could cut off the head of a bird, and not touch her body. Herod.

But letting paſſe the cuſtomes of the Antients: Our *Engliſh* heads which we cuſtomarily vſe in the warres, are better then either forked heads or broad arrow heads; for firſt, the end being lighter they flye a great deale faſter, and by the ſame reaſon giue a farre more deadly blow, and in my conceit (which is no Rule) if the little Barbs or Beards which they haue, were taken away they would be farre better, for this euery man will

will grant, that a Shaft ſo long as it flyeth turneth, and when it leaueth to turne, it leaueth to flye any further, and that euery thing which enters by a turning and boaring faſhion, the more flatter it is the worſe it enters, as a Knife though it be ſharpe, yet it cannot boare ſo well as a Bodkin; therefore ſayth *Ariſtotle*, Nature made euery thing round, that ſhould pierce deepe; ſo that I conclude, eyther the Shaft doth not turne in flying, or or elſe our flat heads are hinderances to the Shafts in entering. Now ſome may ſay, that a flat head both makes a greater hole, and ſtickes much faſter: to this I ſay, that both the reaſons are true, yet both inſufficient; for firſt, the leſſer the hole is (if it be deepe) the worſe it is to heale, and a man when hee ſhooteth againſt his enemy, deſireth

rather

rather that it ſhould enter farre, then ſticke faſt; for what remedy is it I pray you, for him that is ſmitten with a deep wound, to pull out the Shaft quickly, except it be to haſten his death; thus heads which make a little hole and deepe, are better in the Warre, then thoſe which make great and ſhallow; though they ſticke never ſo faſt in.

Iulius Pollux maketh mention of certaine heads for the warre, which carryed fire in them, and the Scripture alſo ſpeaketh ſomewhat to that purpoſe: *Herodotus* ſpeakes of a wonderfull Stratagem done by *Xerxes*, at what time he beſiedged the great Tower at *Athens*, where hee made his Archers binde theyr Shaft heads about with Towe, and then ſet it on fire, and ſo ſhot them off: which being done by many, ſet

Poll. 1

Pſal. 7

Herod. vran.

ſet all the places on fire, which were made of any matter that would burne: and beſides ſo dazled the enemy, that they knew not which way to turne them: But to finiſh theſe heads for Warre, I would wiſh, that all the Head-makers in *England*, would make their Sheaffe-arrow heads more harder poynted then they be, or elſe as they are now out of vſe, ſo they will bee without any power to hurt.

Now as concerning heads for pricking, which is one of the maine ends of this diſcourſe, they are reduced into diuers kinds, ſome are blunt heads, ſome ſharpe, ſome both blunt and ſharpe.

The blunt heads men vſe, becauſe they finde them good to keepe a length, and it is true that they keepe a length, becauſe a man pul-

pulleth them no further at one time then at another, for in feeling the plumpe end alwayes equally, hee may looſe them, yet in the Wind and againſt the Wind, the weather hath ſo much power on the broad end, that no man can keepe a certaine length truely, with ſuch an head: therefore a blunt head in a calme or downe Winde, is very good, otherwiſe, none worſe.

A ſharpe head at the end, without any ſhoulders (I call that a ſhoulder, which a mans finger may feele before it come to the poynt of the head) will pierce quickly through a Winde; but yet it hath two diſcommodities; the one, that it will keepe no length, becauſe no man can pull it at a certainety, but it will come more or leſſe through the want of the ſhoulder; and alſo, becauſe men are affrayd of the

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ſharpe

ſharpe poynt, for feare of ſetting it in the Bow; The ſecond diſcommodity is, when it is lighted on the ground, the ſmall point will be euer in the danger of ſpoyling, which thing of all others, will ſooneſt make a ſhaft to looſe the length.

Now when men perceiued that blunt heads were good to keepe a length, but naught for a winde; and ſharpe heads good to pierce a wind withall, but naught to keepe a length, the head-makers (informed both by the Archers and the Artificers) and wiſely weying the commodities and diſcommodities of both ſorts of heads, Inuented new files and other inſtruments wherewith they brought heads for pricking to ſuch perfection, that in one head they lodged all the excellencies which were in both the other, with-

without any discomoditie at all. These heads they call High-rigged, Crested, or Shouldred-heads, or Siluer-spoone-heads, for a resemblance they haue to the knobs vpon some Siluer-spoones. These heads are good both to keepe a length, and also to pierce the weather withall. First, to keepe a length withall, because a man may certainely pull it to the shoulder euery shoote and no further, then to pierce the wind withal, because the point from the shoulder forward, breaketh the weather as all other sharpe things doe, so the blunt shoulder serueth for a sure length keeping, and the poynt for passing through a rough and foule weather. And thus much for the matter, shape and choyse of Heads.

Now touching the setting on of the head, albe it is the office of the

Fletcher

Fletcher, rather then the Archer, yet it is within the compasse of your owne knowledge, to aduise him to set your head full on or close on. Full on, is when the wood is let hard vp to the end or stopping of the head, and close, is when there is wood left on euery side the shaft to fill the head withall, or when it is neither too little nor too great; If there be any fault in either of these points, the head when it lighteth on a stone or the hard ground will be in danger either of breaking, or some other mischiefe.

Touching the stopping of heads with leade or any thing else, I shall not need here to speake any thing, because euery Siluer-spoone or should red head, is stopped of it selfe.

Short heads are better then long,

because

because the long head is worse for the workeman to file streight, and more difficult to keepe in a true compasse euery where; Againe, it is worse for the Fletcher to set on streight; and thirdly, it is alwaies in more daunger to be broken. And thus I haue done with the particular Instruments, I will now proceed to those which be Generall.

CHAP. XII.

Of the handling of Instruments, the time when, &c.

TOuching the handling of Instruments which appertaine to the Art of *Archerie*, you must vnderstand, that to learne or do any thing with a mans hands, excellently or handsomely, or with an handsome excellence) it

will aske the expence of long time and much practiſe; therefore hee that will approach to this perfection (eſpecially in ſhooting) muſt begin in his youth or child-hood; all creatures how wild or fierce ſoeuer, are by cunning handling tamed, eſpecially when they bee young; and as it is in naturall things, ſo it is alſo in thoſe which be artificiall. The Potter can mold and caſt his pots, to any forme he pleaſeth, when his clay is new, ſoft, and workeable, and the waxe will take any print when it is warme and plyable; but when eyther the one or the other is old, hard, and of no yeilding quality, they are fitter for the Dunghill then our Induſtry: So man in his youth, both with wit and body, is moſt apt and plyable to receiue any cunning that can be taught him; eſpecially, this

Art

Art of Shooting: therefore he that will come to the perfection thereof, must needs begin and practise in his youth, for it is an Art, and will aske at least a full Prentiship.

Yet mistake me not, for I speake not this to disharten any man from the practise of shooting, which hath neglected it in his younger yeares; for I am so farre from it, that I will proue, *Wisedome* may worke the same thing in a man, which Nature doth in a Child.

A child, by 3. things is brought to excellency; to wit, *Aptnesse*, *Desire*, and *Feare*: First, *Aptnesse* maketh him plyant like Waxe, to be formed and fashioned to any thing; *Desire* inflameth him to striue to equall or excell others, in noble actions: and *Feare* of them whom he is vnder, will make him labour, and take greater paine with

diligent heed in learning any thing, whereof proceedeth at the leaſt, Excellencie and Perfection: And as thus, ſo a man may by wiſedome (in learning any thing and eſpecially to ſhoote) haue three like commodities alſo, whereby hee may (as it were) become young againe, and ſo attaine to perfection. For what *Aptneſſe* worketh in a Child, that the vſe of weake Bowes will worke in a man; being vnderneath his ſtrength, and ſo eaſie that hee may come to faire ſhooting at his pleaſure, prouided he ſlacke not his practiſe; for vſe is that which will bring him both to faire ſhooting, and at laſt, to ſtrong ſhooting; next what, *Deſire* prouoketh in a Childe, that let *Shamefaſtneſſe* worke in a man; and laſtly, the paine that *Feare* maketh a Boy vndergoe; that, let the loue of ſhoo-

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ting, excell and ouergoe in a man, and without theſe, there cannot bee any perfection: Thus you ſee, whatſoeuer a Childe can be taught by *Aptneſſe*, *Deſire*, and *Feare*, that may a man attaine vnto, by the vſe of *Weake Bowes*, *Shamefaſtneſſe*, and *Loue*; according to that of *Cicero*, *That vſe is a ſecond Nature:* and I dare be bold to affirme, that whoſoeuer (which is of abilitie) will begin, and conſtantly perſeuere, ſhall in the end, without queſtion be an Archer.

Chap. XIII.

Of comely Shooting, the Benefit and meanes, with the Faults.

ALthough the beſt ſhooting, is thatwhich is moſt comely, and that they are ſuch Adjuncts as cannot bee diuided, yet *Cicero* tels me, that as the chiefe poynt and moſt to bee ſought, is *Comelineſſe*, ſo this comelineſſe only, can neuer be taught by any Art or Craft, but may bee perceiued well when it is done, not deſcribed wel, how it ſhould be done. Neuertheleſſe, there are many wayes to attaine vnto it, which wiſe men haue aſſayed, and though not abſolutely in it, yet in other matters of like conſequence; as thus, it is written, of *Xeuxes*, that taking vpon him

him to paint *Helena* in all her perfection, choſe out fiue of the faireſt Maides in all his Country, and in beholding them, conceiued and drew out ſuch a Picture, that it far exceeded all the pieces, that euer went before it; becauſe the perfections of all thoſe fiue, was drawn into one portraiture: So likewiſe in ſhooting, if a man would ſet before his eyes, fiue or ſixe of the faireſt and beſt approoued Archers, that euer he ſaw ſhoote, and of one learne to ſtand, of another to draw, of another to looſe, and ſo take frō euery man, what euery man could doe beſt; I dare be bold to ſay, he ſhould come to ſuch perfection in comelineſſe, as neuer yet any man attained vnto. But it may be you will expect, becauſe I haue choſen that Theame, that neceſſarily I ought to ſpeake ſomething, in the

way of inſtruction thereunto, but truely I muſt anſwer you, that I can teach you to ſhoot fayre, as *Socrates* once taught a man to know God, for when he asked him what God was, nay (ſayd he) I can better tell you what God is not, as God is not euill, &c. Euen ſo can I ſay of faire ſhooting, that it hath not this nor that diſcommodity, & ſo draying from it all diſcommodities in the end, leaue nothing behinde but faire ſhooting. And to doe this the better, you muſt remember; that in the beginning, when I deſcribed generally the whole nature of Shooting, I told you that faire Shooting did proceed from theſe fiue ſeuerall *Poſtures: Standing, Nocking, Drawing, Holding*, and *Looſing*: all which, I will goe ouer as ſuccinctly and briefly as I can, deſcribing the diſ-

commodities that men commonly vſe in all parts of theyr bodyes, when they imploy them to theſe Actions, ſo that at any time when you ſhall erre or offend in any of the motions, you ſhall both ſpeedily apprehend it, and with as great diligence amend it.

Faults in Archers, doe exceed the number of Archers, and they prodeed from the vſe of ſhooting without teaching; For cuſtome and vſe ſeparated from knowledge, and learning, doth not onely hurt ſhooting, but the moſt materiall & weightieſt Actions in the world; and therefore, I wonder much at thoſe people, which will offer to be the maintainers of vſes and cuſtomes, without knowledge, hauing no other wordes in their mouthes but theſe, *Vſe, Vſe, Cuſtome, Cuſtome*; which beſides diuers

uers other diſcommodities, brings with it this miſchiefe, that it takes from a man all hope of amendment.

There is nothing more true, then that in ſhooting, *Vſe* is the onely cauſe of all the faults therin; whēce it comes, that Children are more eaſily and ſooner taught to ſhoot excellently then Men; becauſe Children may bee taught to ſhoot well at the firſt: Men haue more trouble to vnlearne theyr euil Cuſtomes, then they haue labour afterward to come to good Shooting.

All the diſcommodities, which ill cuſtom hath grafted in Archers, can neyther be quickly pulled out, nor yet ſoone reckoned by mee, they are ſo many; For one ſhooteth his head forward, as if hee would byte the Marke, another, ſtareth

ſtareth with his Eyes, as if they ſhould flye after his Arrow; another, winketh with one eye & openeth the other, as if hee ſhot in a Stone-bow; one maketh a ſowre face, another a wry countenance; one bleereth out his tongue, another biteth his lip, & another holdeth his Necke awry; In drawing, ſome fetch ſuch a Compaſſe, as if they would turne about, and bleſſe the Field, others haue their hand now vp, now downe, that a man cannot diſcerne whereat they would ſhoote, another waggeth the upper end of his Bow one way, & the neather end another: another will ſtand poynting his ſhaft at the marke a good ſpace, and by & by he will giue him a whip & away, ere any man is aware, another will make ſuch a wraſtling and ſtrugling with his Inſtruments, as

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if he were able ſhoote no more as long as he liued; Another draweth his ſhaft ſoftly to the midſt, and by and byit is gone you cannot tell how; Another draweth his ſhaft low at the breſt as if he would ſhoote a rooueing marke, and preſently he lifteth vp his hand prick-height; Another maketh a a wrinching or cringing with his Back, as though a man pinched him behind; Another cowreth downe and thruſts out his Buttocks, as if he were ſhooting at Crowes; Another ſetteth forward his left leg, and draweth backe with his Necke and ſhoulders, as if he were pulling at a rope or elſe were afraid of the marke; Another draweth his ſhaft well vntill within two fingers of the head, and then he ſtayeth a little to looke at his marke, which done, he pulleth it vp to the head and ſo looſeth

looseth, which manner of shooting although some excellent Archers doe vse it, yet it is a Fault, and good mens faultes are not to be Imitated.

Once I heard of a man, which vsed a Bracer on his cheeke, otherwise he had corne all the skin from one side of his face with his drawing-hand; Another I haue seene, which at euery shoote after the loose would lift vp his leg so farre that he was euer in danger of falling; Some will stampe forward and some leape backward, and all these faults are eyther in drawing or loosing, with a world of others, which any man may easily perceiue and so endeauour to avoide them.

Now there be other faults after the shaft is gone from the Bow, which onely euill custome hath

brought

brought vpon men, of which the worſt is, when men will cry after their ſhafts either with execrations or other vnſeemely words, much vnfit for ſo honeſt a Recreation; queſtionleſſe ſuch words are the Symptoms of an euill mind, and diſplaya man that is ſubiect to immeaſurable affections; good-mens eares doe abhorre them, and an honeſt man will avoyd them. Now beſides theſe, there be others, which haue other faults; as ſome will take there Bow and writh and wring it, to pull in there ſhafe when it flieth wide, as if he droue a cart; ſome will giue two or three ſtrides forward dauncing and hopping after his ſhaft, as long as it flyeth; ſome with feare to be too farre gone runne backward as it were to pull their ſhaft backe, another runneth forward, when he feareth to be ſhort

heauing

heauing after his Armes as though he would helpe the Arrow to flye; another runs aside to pull his Shaft streight, one lifteth vp his heele & so holds it till the shaft be falne, another casteth his Arme backward after the loose, and another swings his Bow about him like a whifler before a Pageant to make roome; with a world of other errors, now out of my remembrance. All which, *Montaigne* in one of his *Essayes*, cals the Discharging of passions vpon a wrong subiect. Now these Antick gestures, disfigure and take away all comlinesse from this noble action. So, that Archer which is voyd of all these crimes, cannot but possesse the perfection of comlines in this Art, which how soeuer it cannot be expresst to the life, in words, yet (I will according to my small knowledge) giue you some small

ſmall Character thereof, which if any man ſhall pleaſe to follow, though I cannot make him vtterly Faultleſſe, yet his Faults ſhall neither quickly be perceiued, nor yet greatly rebuked. And this method I will draw from theſe fiue principall *Poſtures*; *Standing*, *Nocking*, *Drawing*, *Holding*, and *Looſing*, which being done in perfection, containe the Subſtance of all faire Shooting.

Chap. XIIII.

Of the firſt Poſture, which is Standing.

THe firſt *Poſture* or Poynt which a man ought to obſerue when he goeth about to Shoote, is to take ſuch Footing and Standing, as ſhall be both comely

comely to the eye, and profitable for the action he hath in hand, ſetting his countenance and all other parts of his body, after ſuch a geſture and port, that both all his Strength may be imployed to his owne moſt abſolute aduantage, and his Shoote made and handled to the high contentment and delight of euery well judging beholder; And firſt, a man muſt not goe to it too haſtily, for that is Raſhneſſe, nor yet be too tedious or make too much a doe about it, for that is Curioſity. Next, the one foote muſt not ſtand too farre from the other leaſt he ſtoop too much, which is moſt vnſeemely; nor yet too neare together, leaſt he ſtand too ſtreight vp, for then he ſhall neyther vſe his ſtrength well, nor ſtand as he ought, ſtedfaſtly; the meane betwixt both theſe muſt be kept.

A thing more pleasant to behold when it is done, then easie to be taught how it should be done.

Chap. XV.

Of the second Posture, which is Nocking.

TO Nocke well, is the easiest point in all the Art of Archery, and containeth no more but ordinary warning, onely it requireth diligent heed giuing; First in putting the Nock betweene your two first fingers, then bringing the shaft vnder the String and ouer the Bow, then to set the shaft neyther too high nor too low, but euen and streight ouerthwart the Bow; For vnconstant Nocking, maketh a man loose his length, and besides that, if his Shaft hand bee high,

high, and the Bow hand low, or otherwise if they be contrarily placed, both the Bow is in danger of breaking, and the Shaft if it be little, will start, and if it be great it will hobble.

You must obserue euer, to Nocke the Cocke Feather vpward, as I told you before, when I described the Feather; and bee sure that the String slip not out of the Nocke, but with your Thumbe before, & a finger on each side behind, hold it fast till it be drawne, for should it happen otherwise, all were in hazard of breaking.

Chap. XVI.

Of the third Posture; which is Drawing.

DRawing well, is the best part of Shooting; the Ancients in times past, vsed another manner of drawing then we doe: For they drew low at the Brest, and to the right Pap; as is described by *Homer*: The noble women of *Scythia*, vsed the same fashion of shooting low at the breast, and because their left Paps hindered them, they caused them to be cut away when they were young, vpon which action, they tooke to themselues the name of *Amazons*. But now in these dayes, contrary to that custome, we draw to the right Eare, & not to the Pap; now

now whether the old way in drawing low to the Pap, or the new way to draw aloft to the eare, bee better; *Percopius* an excellent Greeke Author doth decide: shewing that the old fashion in drawing to the Pap was naught, hauing no pyth in it, and therefore (sayth he) is Artillery dispraised of *Homer*, who calleth it weake, and able to doe no good. But drawing to the Eare, he greatly prayseth, as a way whereby men shoot stronger, longer, and deeper; drawing therefore to the Eare, is better then to draw to the Breast: and now I call it into my minde, I neuer read in any Author whatsoeuer, of any other kinde of shooting, then drawing with a mans hand eyther to the Breast, or to the Eare, and yet I haue turned ouer all *Homer*, *Herodotus*, and *Plutarch*, which makes

Percop. Hist. Pers.

me not a little wonder, how and when *Crossebowes* first came up, seeing they are so forgotten by the best *Historians*: *Leo* the Emperor would haue his Souldiers draw quickly inward, affirming it made a Shaft flye fast: but in shooting at Prickes, hasty drawing is neyther sure nor comely. Therefore to draw easily and vniformely, (that is to say) nor wagging your hand vpward nor downeward, but still obseruing one time and fashion, vntill you come to the Ridge or shouldring of the Head, is best both for profit, skill and Comelynesse.

CHAP.

Chap. XVII.

Of the fourth Posture, which is Holding.

HOlding is an Action, that must not bee of long continuance, for to stand any time vpon it, you put the Bow in danger of breaking, and also spoyle your shoot; It must be so little, that it may be perceiued better in a mans mind and imagination, when it is done, then seene with a mans Eyes as it is doing: for in one moment, the Shaft both approacheth to the Eare, and departeth from the Bow.

Chap. XVIII.

Of the Fifth Posture: which is Loosing.

LOosing, is of the Nature of Holding, and asketh as speedie a motion; for it must be so quicke and hard, that no eyrd may be perceiued; and againe, so soft and gentle, that the Shaft flye not as if it were sent out of a Bow-case: The meane betwixt both these (which is perfect loosing) is not so hard to be followed in shooting, as it is hard to be described in teaching: If you will shoot fayre, in Loosing you must take heed of hitting or touching any thing about you; which caused *Leo* the Emperour, to command all his Archers in Warre, to haue their heads powled,

led, and their Beards ſhauen, leaſt the hayre of their head ſhould hinder the ſight of the Eye, or the hayre of their Beards ſtop the courſe of the ſtring; a world of other Precepts there be, but theſe I hold ſufficient for fayre ſhooting.

Chap. XIX

Of keeping a length, of wind and weather.

HAuing handled (as I hope) ſufficiently this Theame of faire ſhooting, there remaineth nothing now but ſhooting ſtreight, and keeping a length, to make a man hit the marke, which is the full end of this diſcourſe; now to ſhoot ſtreight, or keepe a length, cannot be done without ſome ex-

cellent

cellent knowledge in the wind and Weather, therefore I will ioyne them together, and discoursing of each in their proper places, shew what belongs to the keeping of a length, and what to shooting streight.

The greatest enemies to shooting, are the winde and the weather, by which true keeping a length is chiefly hindred, which accident, if it were not, men by ordinary instruction might be brought to wonderfull neare shooting. For it is no maruaile if the little poore shaft, being sent alone so high into the ayre amidst the rage of wind and weather, one blast hurling it one way, and another, another. It is I say, no maruaile if it both loose the length, & misse the place where the Shooter had thought to haue found it. Greater matters then

Shooting

Shooting are vnder the rule of the weather, and will of the winde; as ſayling on the Seas, and things of like nature, and as in Sayling the chiefeſt poynt of a good Maſter, is to know all tokens, which belong to the change of weather, and the courſe of the Windes, that thereby he may with more ſafety come to the Hauen; euen ſo the beſt property of a good Shooter, is to know the Nature of the Windes with him & againſt him, by which he ſhall ſooner hit the Marke. Wiſe Sea-maſters, when they cannot win the beſt Hauen, are glad of the next that is good; and Shooters, although they cannot hit the marke, will be glad, and labour to come as neare as they can. All things in this World, are imperfect and vnconſtant, therefore let euery man acknowledge his owne weakneſſe,

and onely glorifie him which is all perfection. The Saylor that putteth forth in all weathers, ſeldome eſcapes Shipwracke, and the Shooter, which maketh no difference of Seaſons, but holds all alike, ſhall neyther boaſt of winnings nor of vertue. Little Boates and thinne Boards, cannot indure the rage of Tempeſts, and weake Bowes and light Shafts, cannot ſtand in a rough Wind. And belieue it, what Archer ſoeuer ſhooteth ignorantly, conſidering neyther fayre weather nor foule, true or falſe ſtanding, Nocking, Feather, nor Head, Drawing nor Looſing, nor yet any compaſſe, ſhall alwayes ſhoot ſhort and gone, wide and farre off, and neuer come neare, except by chance hee ſtumble on the Marke; For Ignorance is nothing elſe, but abſolute Blindneſſe.

A skilfull Archer will firſt with diligent vſe and marking the Weather, learne to know the Nature of the Wind, and will with wiſedome meaſure in his mind, how much it will alter his ſhoot either in length keeping, or in ſtreight ſhooting; & ſo with changing his ſtanding, or taking another Shaft which hee knoweth to bee fitter for his purpoſe, eyther becauſe it is lower feathered, or elſe of a better wing, will ſo handle with diſcretion his Shoot, that he will ſeeme rather to haue the weather vnder his rule by ſuch care and circumſpection, then the Weather to rule his Shaft by any ſodaine changing. Therefore in ſhooting, there is as much difference, betwixt an Archer that is a good Weather-man, and him that knoweth nor obſerueth any thing, as is betwixt a blind-man and him that can ſee. More-

Moreouer, a perfect Archer muſt ſeriouſly learne to know the ſure flight of his Shafts, that he may be bold alwayes to truſt them: Next, he muſt learne by continuall experience to know all kind of weathers, the ſignes when it will come, the Nature when it is come, the diuerſity and alteration when it changeth, and the decreaſe and diminiſhing when it ceaſeth: Theſe things thus knowne and obſerued, and euery ſhoot diligently pondred, the ought our Archer to compare the Weather and his Footing together, and with diſcretion meaſure them, ſo that whatſoeuer the Weather ſhall take away from his Shoot, the ſame ſhall juſt footing reſtore againe; This poynt well knowne, and diſcreetly handled, bringeth more profit and commendations to the Archer, then any other ſe-

Of Footing.

con-

condary obſeruation whatſoeuer.

He that will know perfectly the Wind and Weather, muſt put difference betwixt times, and ſeaſons, for diuerſitie of times cauſe the diuerſity of weather. As in the whole yeare there are foure diuerſities of times, the *Spring*, the *Summer*, the *Fall*, and *Winter*, ſo likewiſe in one day, there are alſo foure diuerſities of Time; the *Morning*, *Noone-tide*, *Afternoone* and *Euening*; and all theſe, both alter the weather and change a mans Bow and Strength, and to know that this is ſo, is enough for an Archer, and not to ſearch the cauſe why it ſhould be ſo, for that is the office of the learned.

CHAP. XX.

Chap. XX.

Principall Obſeruations from the Time of the yeare.

IN conſidering the time of the yeare, a wiſe Archer will follow a good Seaman; In winter and rough weather, ſmall Boates and little Pinkes forſake the Seas. And at one time of the yeare, no Gallyes come abroad. So likewiſe, weake Archers vſing but ſmall and hollow Shafts, with Bowes of little pith, muſt be content to giue place for a time; yet I ſpeake not this to diſcourage any weake Shooter, for as there is no Shippe better then a Gally in a ſoft and calme Sea, ſo no man ſhooteth more comely or nearer his marke, then ſome weake

Archers

Archers doe in a fayre and cleare day.

Thus you ſee euery good Archer muſt know, not onely what Bow and Shafts are fitteſt for him to ſhoote withall, but alſo what times and ſeaſons are meeteſt for him to ſhoote in. And truely in all other Matters, and amongſt all the degrees & eſtates of men, there is no man that doth anything more diſcreetly for his commendations, or more profitable for his owne aduantage, then he which doth and will know perfectly for what matter, Action and time he is moſt apt and fit; And here (were it not variable from the diſcourſe I haue in hand) I could enter into a large field of inuection, againſt thoſe which onely labour to ſtruggle to turmoyle themſelues in thoſe matters and affaires which are neither

fit for their capacities nor conſo-nant to their bringing vp; but *Cinthius Aurem vellet*, I will turne a-gaine to the Action of Shooting, in which I will perſwade all wiſe Archers, alwayes to haue their in-ſtruments fit and obedient for their owne ſtrength, and then euermore to waite and attend for ſuch time, weather and ſeaſons, as is moſt a-greeable with the action they goe about: Therefore, if the weather be too violent and vnfit for your ſhooting, leaue of for that day and attend a better Seaſon, For he is a Foole that will not goe when Ne-ceſſity driueth.

Yet to make ſome larger diſ-cription of the weather concerning ſhooting, I would haue you re-member (as I told you before) that in the whole yeare, the *Spring*, *Sum-mer*, *Fall*, and *Winter*; and in one day,

day, the *Morning*, *Noone*, *Afternoone*, and *Euening*, altereth the course of the weather, the pith of the Bow, and the strength of the man: And in euery one of these the weather altereth; as sometimes windie, sometimes calme; one while cloudy, another cleare, sometimes hot, sometimes cold; the wind sometimes moyst and thicke, sometimes, dry and smooth, &c.

A little winde in a misty day stoppeth a shaft more then a good whistling wind in a cleare day; nay I haue seene (when there hath bin no wind at all) the ayre so Misty and thicke, that both the markes haue beene wonderfull great: And once I heard in *Cambridge*, the down-marke at Twelue score-prick, for the space of three weekes was thirteene score and an halfe, and into the wind (not being very great

a great deale aboue fourteene-score.

The wind is sometimes plaine vp and downe, which commonly is most certaine and requireth least knowledge or circumspection, so that a meane Shooter with meane furniture (if he can shoote home) may make shift to doe well.

A side-winde, tryeth a good Archer and good Furniture, for sometime it bloweth a loft, sometime low by the Ground, sometime it bloweth by blasts & sodaine gusts, and sometime continueth all in one manner, sometime a quarter wind with him, & more & again, as much against him; all wch, by a man casting vp a little light grasse or otherwise by his owne experience, shall easily finde out. To see the wind it is impossible, the nature of it is so fine and subtill, but by carefull obseruation

ſeruation a world of experience may be gathered; eſpecially in a Snow wherein one may perceiue, that the wind goeth by ſtreames and not whole together, and in this Obſeruation, though the experience will breed in a man a greater admiration at the Nature of the winde, then cunning in the knowledge of the winde; yet thereby he ſhall learne, that it is no wonder at all, though the beſt Archers looſe their length in ſhooting, ſeeing the wind is ſo variable in blowing.

The Maſter of a Ship, be he neuer ſo Skilfull, may by the vncertainety of weather looſe both life and goods; no wonder then if a good Archer, by the ſelfe ſame wind, ſo variable in it owne nature, and ſo inſenſible to our nature, looſe not onely a Shoote, but a Game.

The more deceitable the Wind is, the more care muſt the Archer haue of thoſe beguilings; hee that doth miſtruſt, is ſeldome ouer-reached: for although hee cannot attaine to that which is beſt, yet hee will be ſure to auoyd that which is the worſt.

Againe, beſides theſe *Winds*, you muſt take heed, if at any time you ſee any Cloud appeare and gather by little and little againſt you; or if a ſhower of Raine bee approaching, for then the driuing of the Weather and the thickening of the Ayre will increaſe your Marke, but when the Shower is gone, and all things cleere and calme, the Marke will be as it was at the firſt, and you are to alter your ſhooting new againe.

You muſt alſo take heed (when you ſhoot) whether one of the

Markes

Markes or both, ſtandeth a little ſhort, or vnder the couert of an high Wall, for there you may eaſily be beguiled, as thus; If you take Graſſe, & caſt it vp to ſee how the Wind ſtands, many times you will ſuppoſe to ſhoot downe the Wind, when you ſhoot cleane againſt the Wind, & there is a ſtrong reaſon for it; becauſe the Wind which commeth againſt you, at the wall, reboundeth backe againe, and whirleth euen to the Pricke, and ſometimes much further; and then turneth againe, euen as a violent water doth againſt a Rocke, or any other high Brey; which example of water, though it be more ſenſible to a mans eyes, yet it is not more true then this of the Wind: Inſomuch, that the caſting vp graſſe (which ſhould be a tel troth) will flye that way, which indeed is

the longer way, and ſo eaſily deceiue the Archer which is not heedfull.

To preuent this inconuenience, it is good for you when you come in the midſt, betweene the Marks, where the field is moſt open, and the Wind at greateſt liberty, and there to caſt vp eyther a Feather, or ſome light Graſſe, and know how the Wind ſtandeth, which done, to hye to the Pricke with all ſpeed poſſible, & according as you found the Wind in the Mid-way, ſo to frame your ſhoot at the Marke.

Take heed alſo, when you ſhoot neare the Sea-coaſt, although you are two or three miles from the Sea, for there (if you be diligent to marke) you ſhall eſpy in the moſt cleere day, wonderfull alterations, which cauſe ſtrange effects in ſhooting: And as thus neare the Sea,

ſo

ſo likewiſe take heed when you ſhoot neare any Riuer ſide, eſpecially if it ebbe and flow, for if then you obſerue the Tide, the weather and accidents proceeding from them, you can hardly be a looſer. And thus (according to my weake knowledge) I haue ſhewed you the nature of the Wind and Weather, wherein if any man find eyther defect or inſufficiency, I ſhall intreat him to amend it out of his owne much better Experience; concluding the Chapter with this admonition, of which I ſpake before, that after the knowledge of the weather thus attained, that then our Archer take heed to his Standing, that hee may thereby win as much in the Ground, as hee loſt by the Weather.

CHAP. XXI.

Chap. XXI.

Of giuing Ayme, the Ease and Errors.

TOuching the giuing of Ayme I cannot tell well what to say, onely that in a strange place, it taketh away all occasion of foule play, which is the onely commendations it can require: But in my Iudgement, it hindereth the knowledge of Shooting, and maketh men more negligent; which eclipseth the former glory; but allow it (as men would haue it) vsefull, yet (though Ayme bee giuen neuer so) you must trust to your owne skill, for you cannot take Ayme at another mans Shoot, nor at your owne neyther; because the Weather will alter in a minute, and

that

that ſometimes at one Marke, and not at the other; and will trouble your Shaft in the Ayre, when you can perceiue no Wind on the ground, as I haue ſeene many ſhafts doe, which haue tumbled aloft in a very faire day; There may be faults alſo in Drawing and Looſing, and many things elſe, which are required in the keeping of a juſt length; which though your Ayme be neuer ſo certaine, yet your error may be vndiſcouered: therefore make vſe of your Ayme and your Iudgement, by a ſerious diſcourſe within your ſelfe, and reconciling them by the ayde of your owne experience, make them both vſefull and profitable: This I haue brought in as a Parenthesis, not ſo much for the validity, as that I would not leaue any thing forgotten.

CHAP. XXII.

Chap. XXII.

Of taking true Standing, that is aduantagious.

THe next thing to the knowledge of the Weather, is perfect Footing, or taking a true aduantagious ſtanding: Therefore, in a ſide Wind, you muſt ſtand ſomewhat croſſe into the wind, for ſo you ſhall ſhoot the furer; when you haue taken your footing, then looke vpon your ſhaft, that neyther wet nor earth be left vpon it, for that will make it looſe the length; looke alſo on the head, leſt it haue had any ſtripe at the laſt Shoot, for a ſtripe againſt a ſtone, many times will both ſpoyle the head, crooke the Shaft, and hurt the Feather; the leaſt of all which, will make a man looſe

looſe his length: which to repaire, and for the auoydance of theſe generall euils, which happen euery ſhoot, I would haue our Archer to carry by his ſide, a fine, ſhort, cloſe cõpact powch, in which he ſhould haue a Fyle, a Stone, a Hurſiſh-skin, and a cloth to wipe his ſhafts cleane vpon euery occaſion; Theſe things muſt a man carefully looke vnto, euer when he taketh vp his Shaft, he muſt alſo take heed, that the head be not made too ſmooth, for that will make the Arrow flye too farre, the meane therefore, is beſt proportion; the next to theſe things, followeth the Bow, the handling whereof, I haue handled already; as for Nocking, Drawing and Looſing, they are not vndiſcuſſed, I will but therefore rub your memory ouer with this Precept, that to looke at the head of your Shaft

Shaft at the Looſe, is the beſt help for keeping a length, yet ſome are of opinion, that it hindereth excellent ſhooting, becauſe a man hath then no certainty of ſhooting ſtreight, chiefly in that he beholds not his Marke, but for mine owne part, were I to ſhoot at a Lyne, and not at a Marke; I would alwayes looke at my Arrowes end. But of this I will ſpeake more in the next Chapter, and now conclude, that who ſo marketh his Weather diligently, keepes his Standing juſtly, holds the Nocke truly, drawes and looſeth equally, & keeps his compaſſe certainely, can neuer miſſe his length.

CHAP. XXIII.

Chap. XXIIII.

Of Shooting ſtreight, and the Helpes.

TOuching the Art to ſhoot ſtreight, I will firſt ſhew you what Leſſons old Archers haue found to attaine therevnto, and then, what wayes are beſt to accompliſh the ſame.

As the Weather belongeth chiefly to the keeping a length, yet a ſide-wind appertaineth to ſhooting ſtreight; and the nature of the Pricke alſo, is to ſhoot ſtreight; The length or ſhortneſſe of the Marke, is alwayes vnder the Rule of the weather, yet there is ſomething in the Marke, worthy to bee marked of an Archer.

If the Pricke ſtand on a plaine

ſtreight

ſtreight ground, they are the beſt to ſhoote at; If the marke ſtand on an hill ſide, or the ground be vnequall with hollownes and turning wayes betwixt the markes, a mans eye will take that to be ſtreight wch is crooked. The experience of this thing, is ſeene in painting and other Arts, where crookednesse appeare ſtreight by ſhadowes. But to proceed, the chiefe cauſe why a man cannot ſhoot, is becauſe they looke at their Shaft, which fault commeth for want of inſtruction when a man is young; for he that learnes to ſhoote by himſelfe, being afraid to pull the ſhaft out of the Bow, looks ſtill at his Arrow; And cuſtome confirmeth this Errour, as it doth many other, and men continue longer in this fault, becauſe it hath ſo good a vertue in the keeping of a length, therefore to keepe

this

this fault and yet shoote streight, Some Archers haue found out this Inuention, to espie a tree, or an hill beyond the marke, or else to haue some notable thing betwixt the markes on which he might fixe his eye & his hand: And, that this is so, there was once an excellent Archer which tooke all his implements, his Quiuer and other necessaries & layd them in the mid-way betwixt the markes, which the by-standers supposed he did for safety sake, but the end of his drift was, to make him shoote streight; there be other Archers which will espy a marke a Bow wide off the pricke, and then place himselfe on that hand the pricke is on; which thing, how much good it doth a man, he will hardly beleeue, that doth not proue it.

Others, and they no meane Ar-

chers, in drawing looke at the mark vntill they come almoſt to the head, then they looke at the ſhaft, but at the very looſe, with a ſecond ſight, they find their marke againe. But this way, and all the other before rehearſed, are but ſhifts and fooleries and not to be imitated in ſhooting ſtreight, the onely way worthy purſuit is alwayes to haue your eye vpon your marke, and as I hold, it is the readieſt and eaſieſt way, to come to ſhoote ſtreight, chiefly if it be practiſed in youth, and confirmed in elder age.

Now there is yet a ſcruple in mens minds, which is the beſt way to looke at the marke, as whether betwixt the Bow and the ſtring, or aboue or beneath the hand, and many other wayes beſide. But it is not much materiall, which way a man lookes at his marke, if it va-

rie not from comely ſhooting, the diuerſity of mens ſtanding and drawing, cauſeth diuers men to looke at their markes diuers wayes, yet they all leade a mans hand to ſhoote ſtreight, if nothing elſe ſtoppe; ſo that comelineſſe is the onely iudge of beſt looking at the Marke. Some men wonder, why in caſting a mans eye at the Marke, the hand ſhould goe ſtreight: But ſurely, if he conſidered the nature of a a mans eye, he would not wonder at it: For this I am certaine of, that no ſeruant to his Maſter, no child to his Father is ſo obedient, as euery joynt and piece of the body is to doe, whatſoeuer the Eye bids. The Eye is the guide, the ruler, and the ſuccourer of all the other parts; the hand, the foot, and other members, dare doe nothing without the Eye, as doth appeare in

the night, or darke Corners.

The Eye is the very Tongue wherewith wit and reaſon doth ſpeake to every part of the body, and the wit doth not ſo ſoone ſignifie a thing by the Eye, as every part is ready to follow, or rather preuent the bidding of the Eye. This is plaine in many things, but moſt euident in Fence and fighting, (for as I haue heard men ſay) there every part ſtanding in feare to haue a blow, runnes to the eye for helpe, as Infants doe to the Mother; the foote, the hand, and all waite vpon the Eye. If the eye bid the hand either beare off, or ſtrike, or the foote either goe forward, or backward, it doth ſo. And that which is moſt wonder of all, the one man looking ſtedfaſtly at the other mans Eye and not at his hand, will euen as it were read in his eye,

where

where he purposeth to strike next; for, the eye is not any thing else, but a certaine window for wit to shoote out her head at.

This wonderfull worke of God, in making all the members so obedient to the Eye, is a pleasant thing to remember, and looke vpon; therefore, an Archer may be sure in learning to looke at his mark when he is young, alwayes to shoote streight. The things that hinder a man which looketh at his mark to shoot streight, be these; A sidewind, a Bow eyther too strong or too weake, an ill arme, when a feather runneth on the Bow too much, a bigge brested-Shaft for him that shooteth vnder-hand, because it will hobble; a little brested-shaft for him that shooteth aboue the hand, because it will start: a paire of winding prickes, and many o-

ther things, which you ſhall marke your ſelfe, and as you know them, ſo learne ro amend them. If a man would leaue to looke at his ſhaft, and learne to looke at his marke, he may vſe this way, which a good ſhooter told me once that he did. Let him take his Bow in the night, and ſhoot at two Lights, and there he ſhall be compelled to looke alwayes at his marke, and neuer at his ſhaft. This way once, or twice vſed, will cauſe him forſake looking at his ſhaft, yet let him take heed of ſetting his ſhaft in the Bow.

Thus you ſee, to ſhoote ſtreight is the leaſt Maſtry of all, if a man order himſelfe thereafter in his youth, and as for keeping a length, Iam ſure, the rules which I gaue will neuer deceiue; ſo that there ſhall lacke nothing, either of hit-

ting the marke alwayes, or elſe very neare ſhooting, if the fault be not only in your owne ſelfe, which may come two wayes; either in hauing a faint heart, or courage, or elſe with ſuffering your ſelfe ouermuch to be led by affection; if a mans minde faile him, the body, which is ruled by the mind, can neuer doe his duty; if lacke of courage were not, men might doe more Maiſteries, then they doe, as doth appeare, in Leaping and Vaulting.

All affections, and eſpecially Anger, hurt both minde and body, the mind is blinded thereby, and if the mind be blind, it cannot rule the body aright. The body both Bloud and Bone, as they ſay is brought out of his right courſe by anger, whereby a man lacketh his right ſtrength, and therefore can-

not shoote well. If these things be auoided (whereof I will speake no more, because they belong not properly to shooting) and all the precepts which I haue giuen, diligently marked, no doubt any man shall shoote, as well, as euer any man did.

This Discourse handled by me (as I know well,) not perfitly, yet as I suppose truly, the world must take in good parte, wherein, if diuers things doe not altogether please, yet it may pardon.

FINIS.

MVSEVM BRITAN NICVM